

Marie - Hélène Brown

Reading and Writing

THAI

กขค ง จ ฉ
กขค ง จ ฉ
กขค ง จ ฉ
กขค ง จ ฉ
กขค ง จ ฉ
กขค ง จ ฉ



Editions Duang Kamol



ก ข ค ง จ ฉ

Reading and Writing

THAI

by

Marie-Hélène Brown



Editions Duangkamol
Siam Square, Bangkok, Thailand

© 1988

160.-

Reading and Writing Thai

by *Marie-Hélène Brown*

ISBN 974 210 4506

First Edition 1988



Edition Duangkamol

G.P.O. Box 427

Bangkok Thailand

รหัส 2/2531

Limited edition for 1,000 copies

Distributed by

D.K. Today Co., Ltd.

90/21-25 Rajprarop Road, Maggasan

Payathai, Bangkok 10400 Tel. (02) 245-5586

Printed by

D.K. Printing House

1/10-11 Dindang Road, Payathai, Bangkok Thailand

Tel. (02) 246-5424

With my grateful thanks to:

Bungon Gesdee

เกษม จีรพงษ์ธนาเวช

อมรทิพย์ รัตนดวงค์

เดิฅพงษ์ ยิ้มไพนุฅย์

and my husband Peter
for their patience and precious advice.

INDEX

INTRODUCTION	P. I
GLOSSARY	P. II
ABBREVIATIONS	P. III
THE HYPHEN	P. IV
Chapter 1: Language and script.	P. 1
Origin.	
Alphabet.	
Thai writing.	
Sentence pattern.	
Numbers.	
The five tones.	
Different dialects spoken in Thailand.	
Chapter 2: Phonetic transcription	P. 4
Vocalics.	
Vowels.	
Diphthongs and triphthongs.	
The special symbol /ʔ/ called "stop".	
Consonants.	
Four basic types of syllables: phonetic construction.	
The five tones.	
Chapter 3: Letter symbols: VOCALICS.	P. 8
Generalities.	
How to draw the letters.	
Simple letters.	
How to name Thai vocalics.	
Three special letters : ๅ, ๆ, ็.	
Compound letters.	
Inherent vowels /-a?/, /-o-/ and /-ɔɔ/.	
General chart of the 25 vowel symbols.	
Diphthongs and triphthongs: general chart.	
Chapter 4: Irregularities in the length of certain vocalic letters	P. 24
๑-, ๒- and -๓.	
Other long vocalics used as short.	
Short vocalics used as long.	
Chapter 5: Letter symbols: CONSONANTS.	P. 29
Generalities.	
Phonetic value and pronunciation.	
How to draw Thai consonants.	
Why so many letters?	
How to name Thai consonants.	
The fourty-four consonants: chart.	
The fourty-four consonants and their particularities.	
The six consonant phonetic values in syllable-final position.	
Chapter 6: Two sets of special letters.	P. 59
Chapter 7: Special symbols.	P. 60
The repetition symbol ๑	
The abbreviation symbol ๒	
The "ETC..." symbol ๓๔	
The silence symbol : ๕	

EXERCISE 1	P. 61
Chapter 8: Consonants with two functions in word-medial position	P. 66
General cases.	
Special cases.	
Remarks.	
Chapter 9: Syllables.	P. 68
Generalities.	
Phonetic transcription of live and dead syllables.	
How to separate syllables.	
EXERCISE 2	P. 71
Chapter 10: The five tones.	P. 75
Generalities.	
The four tonal markers.	
The five tones without tonal markers.	
Recapitulative chart.	
Chart illustration.	
Substitutes for the two missing tones with G2 and G3 initials.	
General remarks.	
The 3 consonant groups and the 4 tonal markers.	
EXERCISE 3	P. 82
EXERCISE 4	P. 87
Chapter 11: What to know and remember about ɿ when not in initial position.	P. 92
When in final position.	
When silent behind ʱ, ʃ and ʈ.	
Double ɿ used as a vocalic or vocalic + consonant.	
EXERCISE 5	P. 95
Chapter 12: Consonant clusters & groupings	P. 97
General rules.	
Remarks on the five predisposed vocalics when they precede at least two consonants.	
Type 1.	
Type 2.	
General remark.	
Type 3.	
Chapter 13: Irregular tones	P. 104
Type 3.	
Some other disyllabic words.	
EXERCISE 6	P. 109
Chapter 14: Silence, with and without the marker	P. 116
The silence marker.	
The silence marker is omitted.	
Silent letters in compound words.	
Chapter 15: How to spell words	P. 120
Vocalics.	
Consonants.	
Examples.	
Particularities.	
EXERCISE	P. 121
Chapter 16: How to use a dictionary	P. 123

INTRODUCTION

This book is intended for all people wishing to learn the Thai system of writing and reading .

Before making any attempt to study the letters and rules themselves, the student must be familiar with the phonetic system and the technical terms defined in the glossary.

The main chapters are presented in the following order :

- phonetic transcription .
- vocalic letters.
- consonant letters.
- syllables.
- basic tone rules.
- special letter-combinations.
- irregular tones.
- how to spell words.
- how to use a dictionary.

This order should simplify the search for any rule or definition whenever the pronunciation or spelling of a word troubles the reader. Although chapters must be studied in sequence, several should be skipped until the student has a fair knowledge of **phonetics**, simple, compound and inherent **vocalics**, the forty-four **consonants divided into three groups** and the **basic tone rules**. (Chapters to be skipped are indicated appropriately). All examples given in the first chapters cannot be read nor pronounced until then.

The first attempt to read and write words begins as soon as the entire alphabet has been considered. The exercises develop progressively to facilitate comprehension of the rules as they are presented.

Words and examples are in alphabetical order.

The student will soon find the importance of knowing all the basic rules of the Thai system of reading and writing as most dictionaries do not give the tone of syllables nor the length of vocalic phones.

Reading and writing Thai is not as difficult as it looks once the basic system has been mastered, so persevere and have fun. It is worth a little effort!

Good luck.

ขอให้คุณโชคดี

GLOSSARY

CLOSED SYLLABLE	: syllable ending in a consonant phone.
COMPOUND	: compound vocalic (vocalic letter built up of two or more elements)
DIPTHONG	: letter corresponding to the combination of two vocalic phones as /-ai/, /-ua/ . . .
FINAL	: letter corresponding to the last phone of the syllable when it is a consonant.
INHERENT	: one of the three vowels which are pronounced and not written: /-a?/, /-o-/ and /-ɔɔ/.
INITIAL	: letter corresponding to the first phone of the syllable (always a consonant).
OPEN SYLLABLE	: syllable ending in a vocalic phone.
PHONE	: single speech-sound (vowel or consonant; vocalic phones are single or compound.).
SONORANTS	<p>: the ten G3 consonants which do not have their equivalent in G2 (<u>ɔ</u>, <u>ɛ</u>, <u>ɛ̃</u>, <u>ɛ̂</u>, <u>ɛ̄</u>, <u>ɛ̆</u>, <u>ɛ̈</u>, <u>ɛ̊</u>, <u>ɛ̌</u>, <u>ɛ̎</u>), corresponding to /ɲ/, /n/, /m/, /y/, /r/, /l/, /w/.</p> <p>Convertible sonorants: the 8 sonorants which are not underlined. They are preceded by <u>ห</u> <u>นำ</u> when required by the tone rules (chapter 10 paragraph 6 Bb, page 79).</p>
TRIPTHONG	: letter corresponding to the combination of three vocalic phones as /-iao/, /-uay/ . . .
VOCALICS	: general term including vowels, diphthongs and triphthongs.

ABBREVIATIONS

C	=	consonant
CS	=	closed syllable
DCE	=	dead consonant ending
G3S	=	sonorant
I	=	inherent
LCE	=	live consonant ending
LV	=	long vowel; diphthong or triphthong
OS	=	open syllable
PV	=	predisposed vocalic
S	=	syllable
SI	=	short inherent /-a?/ or /-o-/
SV	=	short vowel

THE HYPHEN

Here the use of hyphens has to be understood from the beginning. In this book they often occur with letters or phonetic symbols when considered alone. **THEY ALWAYS GIVE THE POSITION OF THE LETTER OR THE PHONE IN THE SYLLABLE.**

1) LETTERS:

A) Vocalics:

As shown in chapter 3, vocalics can be simple or compound, written before, after, above, below or on three sides of the initial consonant; the hyphen gives the position of the initial.

B) Consonants:

No hyphen occurs with consonant letters.

2) PHONETICS:

A) Vocalics:

a) The phonetic symbol represents the phone of a letter only found in medial position: hyphen on each side of the phone as $\tilde{\text{a}}$ - /-a-/.

b) The phonetic symbol represents the phone of a letter only found in final position: hyphen written before the phone as - $\tilde{\text{a}}$ /-a?/.

c) The phonetic symbol represents the phone of a letter either found in medial or final position: hyphen written on each side of the phone or not written at all according to the context as - $\text{a}(-)$ /-aa-/ or /aa/.

B) Consonants:

Consonants often have two different phonetic values according to their position in the syllable. When the phonetic symbol is followed by a hyphen it gives its value in initial position. When the phonetic symbol is preceded by a hyphen it gives its value in final position.

CHAPTER 1

LANGUAGE AND SCRIPT

1) ORIGIN:

In the course of history the Thais emigrated from southern China. From the fifth to the thirteenth century, what is now known as Thailand was dominated by Mons and Kmers. When, in the thirteenth century, the people finally formed a nation, they kept the cultural heritage of their ancestors and adapted it to their new national characteristics. The Mons had been influenced by the Indian civilisation and were Theravada Buddhists. The Kmers had adopted Hinduism which was later replaced by Mahayana Buddhism. The language of Theravada is Pali, that of Mahayana is Sanskrit. Thus modern Thai developed from a mixture of many words and concepts from Pali, Sanskrit, Mon and Kmer languages.

2) THE ALPHABET:

In 1283 King Ram Khamheng introduced an official Thai alphabet on the model of Indian script, including two important modifications in order to simplify the writing. Two consonants standing together at the beginning or end of a word were separated, they were not joined in a ligature as in Sanskrit but written separately as in the Roman alphabet. The signs for vowels, which in most Oriental writings stand before, after, below or above the initial consonant, were brought into line with the consonants, thus forming genuine vowel letters. In this way the king invented a true alphabet, but the second innovation was still too revolutionary and not maintained.

Nowadays there is still no comprehensive alphabetical order which includes both consonants and vowels as in the Roman alphabet. Each series is considered separately.

There are twenty-one consonant phones represented by forty-four letters divided into three categories according to the tone rules: nine middle class, eleven high class, twenty-four low class. Twelve of the twenty-one phones are each represented by two, three or four letters per class. In order to distinguish each of them when orally spelling a word, they are all named by a standard arbitrary word.

There are nine short vowel phones and their equivalent in long. These

eighteen phonetic values are represented by twenty-five simple and compound letters, as seven of them change their form according to their position in the syllable. The vowel alphabet is composed of fifteen simple letters (though three of them are built up of two elements) which also occur as part of compound vocalics (vowels, diphthongs and triphthongs). To these fifteen simple letters three consonants are added: two of which also act as vowels in some cases, all three can be part of compound vocalics.

In addition to consonants and vocalics there are two sets of special letters which represent combined consonant and vowel sounds. They are always considered individually and occur in the consonant alphabet.

3) THAI WRITING:

Writing is from left to right, with no distinction of capital and small letters. Though printed characters occur in different sizes and styles, the basic form is always the same. Letters are never linked. There is no space between words, only between sentences. No punctuation is used.

4) SENTENCE PATTERN:

Each word stands in isolation, without any grammatical modification. Number, gender and tense are given by the addition of extra words when necessary. Articles do not exist. Adverbs and equivalent clauses occur either at the beginning or the end of sentences. Adjectives are placed after the noun they qualify (except for numerals). Every concrete word belongs to a category. The word which designates it is called a classifier. It is always used when things, persons, animals, are counted by the piece. Therefore « five cats » would be translated as « cats five animals » as numerals occur before the classifier.

The usual sentence order is Subject + Verb + Object + . . .

In colloquial Thai it is customary to omit pronouns, prepositions and all other words which are not entirely necessary to the comprehension of the statement. Yet words which might seem useless to foreigners are used to make the sentence sound more complete.

5) NUMBERS:

There are Thai numeral symbols although Arabic numerals are widely used nowadays.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

๐ ๑ ๒ ๓ ๔ ๕ ๖ ๗ ๘ ๙

6) THE FIVE TONES:

Like Chinese, Thai is a tonal monosyllabic language. Each syllable is pronounced in one of the five tones: middle, low, falling, high or rising.

The tone rules are precise enough to allow any serious foreign student to read and pronounce Thai correctly when having a good knowledge of all the letters, the three consonant groups and the tone rules. Without any doubt the best way to acquire a perfect pronunciation would be to spend some time in Thailand or among Thai people, nevertheless when knowing all the important basic rules the student can practice by pronouncing aloud very regularly, being fully aware of the length of vowels, the pronunciation of each letter, the tone of each syllable, trying to improve the general speed.

7) DIFFERENT DIALECTS SPOKEN IN THAILAND:

Nowadays there are four dialects spoken in Thailand: northern, north-eastern, central and southern Thai. They are almost as different from each other as are Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. Central Thai is taught in schools throughout the country and considered as the official language. Yet people intending to spend some time in Bangkok must be aware of the two main phonetic differences which often occur in colloquial Thai in the capital:

- Initial phones /phw-/ or /pw-/ are sometimes pronounced /f-/;
- /r-/ is usually pronounced /l-/.

CHAPTER 2

PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION

1) VOCALICS:

« Vocalics » is a general term including vowels, diphthongs and triphthongs. It represents all letters corresponding to simple and compound vocalic phones.

When it comes to the tone rules it is most important to make the distinction between short vowels and the rest of the vocalic family, as only short vowels are considered as short sounds! Short diphthongs correspond to a combination of two phones, therefore they cannot be considered as short when applying the tone rules.

2) VOWELS:

There are nine basic vowel phones and their equivalent in long.

The following chart gives the eighteen phones. Each of them has been illustrated by English words giving the closest phonetic value when possible.

SHORT VOWEL PHONES		LONG VOWEL PHONES	
a?	ban <u>a</u> na	aa	gu <u>a</u> rd
ə?	gold <u>e</u> n	əə	s <u>i</u> r
E?	g <u>e</u> t	EE	
e?	blas <u>e</u>	ee	
i?	sh <u>i</u> p	ii	tea
ɔ?	god	ɔɔ	
o?	<u>a</u> ll	oo	so!
ʊ?	like « pull » with clenched teeth and lips stretched sideways.	uu	
u?	fo <u>o</u> t	uu	who

3) DIPHTHONGS AND TRIPHTHONGS:

There are lots of diphthong and triphthong combinations. Here are the most common phones:

DIPTHONGS		TRIPTHONGS	
-ao	h <u>ow</u>		
-aao			
-ay	m <u>y</u>		
-aay			
-əy			
-ia	Ind <u>ia</u>	-iao	mi <u>aw</u> !
-iu	f <u>ew</u>		
-oy	t <u>oy</u>		
-ooy			
-ua		-uay	
ua	w <u>ap</u> iti		
-uaa	br <u>ew</u> er	-uaay	w <u>hy</u> !
-uy			
-eo			
-eeo			
-EEo	a <u>or</u> ta		

NOTES:

Here the hyphen shows the position of the initial-consonant phonetic value.

All phones are given in the Roman alphabetical order to help the student memorize them.

All phones but /ua/ only occur in syllable-final position.

The dipthong /ua/ can be found either in medial or final position in the syllable.

4) THE SPECIAL SYMBOL /?/:

This special phonetic symbol will always occur **AFTER A SHORT VOWEL IN SYLLABLE-FINAL POSITION**. This symbol is very useful when separating syllables, to apply the tone rules.

Nevertheless this phonetic symbol also occurs in **INITIAL** position to represent the silent consonant \emptyset when its only rule is to carry a vocalic phone. It is then called the « stop »

5) CONSONANTS:

There are twenty-one consonant phones.

There are only six syllable-final consonant phones: /-k/, /-p/, /-t/ which are dead endings and /-m/, /-n/, /-ŋ/ which are live endings. These two classifications will be discussed later. They are very important to notice in order to have a better understanding of the tone rules.

Ten of the twenty-one consonant sounds can be considered in parallel: five are aspirated and the other five are not.

A) Unaspirated consonant phones:

/ʔ-/ is called the « stop » It corresponds to a silence.

/k/ like to care

/j-/ " John

/t/ " telephone

/p/ " poor

It corresponds to a silence.

Each phonetic value is a « pure » consonant sound.

B) Aspirated consonant phones:

/h-/

/kh-/

/ch-/

/th-/

/ph-/

Each phonetic value is based on the phones mentioned above but **accentuated and aspirated**.

Here the hyphen shows the position of each consonant phone in the syllable. When the phonetic value is followed by a hyphen, the phone only occurs in syllable initial position. When there is no hyphen, it occurs either in syllable-initial or final position.

C) Remarks on the three dead endings:

Whenever /k/, /p/, /t/ or /kh/, /ph/, /th/ are found at the end of a syllable, the phonetic value is always the same, each sound being pronounced very short and without the aspiration, therefore corresponding more to /g/, /b/ and /d/ (as they are transcribed in some other books).

D) The eleven other consonant phones:

/d-/ like date

/m/ like mother

/f-/ " father
 /s-/ " sister
 /b-/ " baby
 /ŋ/ " ping-pong
 /n/ " noon

/y-/ " yo
 /r-/ " rose
 /l-/ " letter
 /w-/ " wagon

NOTE:

The letters corresponding to /ʔ-/ , /w-/ and /y-/ are special letters.

They are considered as consonants when in syllable-initial position.

The first two are vocalics in some cases and all three can act as part of compound vocalic letters.

6) 4 BASIC TYPES OF SYLLABLES: phonetic construction.

Consonant + Short Vowel : Open syllable with short vowel
 Consonant + Short Vowel + Consonant : Closed syllable with short vowel
 Consonant + Long Vocalic : Open syllable with long vocalic
 Consonant + Long Vocalic + Consonant : Closed syllable with long vocalic





NOTE:

The syllable-initial consonant can either be single or double.

ALL SYLLABLES ALWAYS HAVE A CONSONANT AS INITIAL LETTER.

7) THE 5 TONES: phonetic transcription.

There are five distinct tones in Thai language. Each syllable has to be pronounced in one or another. The tone rules will be explained in detail further on. As they are rather intricate it is impossible to consider them before the student has a fair knowledge of the entire alphabet and can make the distinction between the three groups of consonants.

middle tone : no phonetic symbol
 low tone : 
 falling tone : 
 high tone : 
 rising tone : 

CHAPTER 3

LETTER SYMBOLS: VOCALICS

(vowels, diphthongs and triphthongs)

1) GENERALITIES:

Thai vocalics depend on Thai consonants. They always have to be carried by a consonant and are always pronounced after it (whatever their position is, even predisposed vocalics). When a vocalic phone sounds alone in a syllable, the letter is carried by the silent consonant อ.

Symbol-wise Thai vocalics are divided into three groups:

- simples
- compounds
- inhereents.

2) HOW TO DRAW THE LETTERS:

Each character has to be drawn in one stroke, starting from:

- the loop:



- the stick:



- left or right:



3) SIMPLE LETTERS:

There are fifteen basic vocalic characters. They are simple letters even though three of them are built up of two elements.

Three are diphthongs, the others are vowels.

They are not all written after the initial-consonant, as in the Roman system of writing: 5 occur before the consonant, 3 occur after, 5 occur above and 2 occur below.

It is most important to learn them with their position around the initial consonant, in alphabetical order, as all the compound letters depend on them (page 123).

A) 5 predisposed vocalics: written before the initial-consonant.

เ-, แ-, โ-, ใ-, ๕- corresponding to /ee/, /EE/, /oo/, /-ay/ and /-ay/.

It may be difficult for the beginner to guess where these predisposed vocalics should be pronounced when they are followed by two or several consonants but there is nothing to worry about (chapter 12).

B) 3 postdisposed vocalics: written after the initial-consonant.

-ะ, -า, -ั corresponding to /-a?/, /aa/ and /-am/.

C) 5 upperscript vocalics: written above the initial-consonant.

-ะ, -ิ, -ี, -ุ, -ู corresponding to /-a-/, /i/, /ii/, /u/ and /-uu-/.

D) 2 underscript vocalics: written below the initial-consonant.

-ุ, -ู corresponding to /u/ and /uu/.

E) Two special letters:

๒ and ๓ have the same phonetic value. They are usually pronounced short.
๒ is only found in the twenty following words and their compounds:

ใกล้	/klây/	(to be close, near)
ใคร	/khray/	(who?; someone, anyone)
ใคร่	/khrây/	(to wish)
ใจ	/jay/	this word occurs in a great number of words referring to feelings, human qualities
ใช่	/chây/	(yes, that's it)
ใช้	/chây/	(to use, to be used)
*ใด	/day/	(which; any)

ใต้	/tây/	(southern)
ใน	/nay/	(in -space-; at, in, on -time-)
ใบ	/bay/	(classifier for leaves; thin round flat objects; round and hollow objects such as hats, cups; fruits and eggs)
ใบ้	/bây/	(dumb, mute)
เฝ	/fây/	(to intend to, to think of)
ใย	/yay/	(fiber; spider web)
สะใภ้	/sà?pháy/	(women entering a family by marriage)
ใส	/săy/	(clear, transparent)
ใส่	/sày/	(to put in, to insert)
ให้	/hây/	(to give; for -somebody-)
ใหญ่	/yày/	(big, large, voluminous)
ใหม่	/mày/	(new)
ไตร่ตรอง	/khrâykhruan/	(to consider, to think of)

* ไต is always preceded by a classifier. In Thai, objects, persons, animals belong to a certain class, a certain category. The word which designates them is called a classifier. It must be mentioned whenever objects, animals, persons are counted by the piece.

4) HOW TO NAME THAI VOCALICS:

When orally spelling words vocalics are called สระ /sà?rà?/ + their phonetic value.

Exceptions:

๑ is called ไม้้วน /máymúan/ (rolled up stick)

๒ is called ไม้มลาย /máymá?laay/ (broken stick)

When written /sà?rà? -a-/ occurs in syllable-medial position, it is called
ไม้หันอากาศ /máyhǎn?aakàat/ (stick turning in the air) and is written ไม้หันอากาศ.

5) THREE SPECIAL LETTERS: ย, ๗, อ.

Three consonants have to be considered at the same time as the fifteen simple vocalics as two are used as such and the three of them are used as elements in compounds: ย, ๗, อ.

ย : is a consonant when in syllable-initial position.

never occurs in syllable-medial position.

is part of a compound vocalic when in syllable-final position, and when followed by ๗ as in ैया ๗ /-iao/.

๗ : is a consonant when in syllable-initial position.

is a diphthong when in syllable-medial position, /-ua-/.

is part of a compound vocalic when in syllable-final position. It is never pronounced /-w/ but /-o/ except in two compound diphthongs:

ैया /-iu/

ैया ๗ /-ua/

อ : is a consonant when in syllable-initial position. It is silent and only used as a support when a pure vocalic sound is required as vocalics can never stand alone.

is a vowel when in syllable-medial position, pronounced /-๗๗ -/ and sometimes /-๗ -/.

is the vowel /-๗๗ / or part of a compound vocalic when in syllable-final position and when followed by ย as in ैया ๗ ย /-uay/.

Examples of อ pronounced short:

นิดหน่อย /nítn ò y/ (a little)

บ่อย /bò y/ (often)

ส่อง	/sòŋ/	(to illuminate)
ห้อง	/hôn/	(room)
อร่อย	/ʔàʔròy/	(delicious)

.....

6) COMPOUND LETTERS:

They are built up of two or more of the following elements:

- simple vocalics,
- ๑, ๒ and/or ๓.
- one of the two shortening symbols -๔, -๕.

Examples: ๑-๒๔ /-əʔ/, ๑-๒๕ /ia/, ๑๕- /-E-/

All simple vowels and three diphthongs have been studied in paragraphs 3 & 4.
All other vowels, diphthongs and triphthongs are compound vocalic letters.

A) The two shortening symbols:

a) -๔

Five compound letters end with the symbol -๔. **IT IS NOT** ๔๖๔ -๔ /sàʔràʔ-aʔ/, it is a symbol which corresponds to the phonetic « stop » to shorten the phone of certain vowels when in syllable-final position.

b) -๕

This symbol is added to three simple vowels when they phonetically occur in syllable-medial position: ๑-, sometimes ๑๑-, and occasionally -๑.

It is called ๑๑๑๑๑ /máytàykhúu/, placed above the initial.

There is one word to memorize as it is built up of a single consonant carrying the shortening symbol: ๑๑ /kôn/ (then, also ...). **THE TONE IS IRREGULAR.**

There are also a few words to memorize as they are often written without the shortening symbol:

เป่น	/pen/	(to be + NOUN)
เพชร	/phét/	(diamond) Here ะ is silent.
เมตร	/mét/	(metre) Here ะ is silent.
เมตริก	/métrik/	(metric) Borrowed from French.

B) Compound vowels: Chart.

IN CLOSED SYLLABLES [compound vowels] pronounced in medial position	phonetics	IN OPEN SYLLABLES [compound vowels] pronounced in final position	phonetics
เ- ^ด RARE	/-ə-/	เ-อะ RARE	/-ə?/
เ- ^ด	/-əə-/	เ-อ	/-əə/
-อ- ^ด RARE	/-ɔ-/	เ-าะ RARE	/-ɔ?/
		เ-ะ RARE	/o?/
		-อ ^ด	/-ua/
เ- ^ด	/-e-/	เ-ะ	/-e?/
เ- ^ด RARE	/-E-/	เ-ะ	/-E?/

REMARK:

เ-^ด does not occur very often but here is a common word to memorize:

แข็ง /khĕŋ/ (hard, firm) also found in น้ำแข็ง /námkhĕŋ/ (ice)

C) Main compound diphthongs: Chart.

The following chart shows the main combinations to memorize. All the others are pretty logical and easily understood when the student knows the fifteen simple vocalics, the eleven compound vowels and the six following compound diphthongs.

diphthong letter	phonetics
ɪ-ʌ	-ao
ɪ-ʊ	-əə y
ɪ-ʊ ⁴	ia
ɛ-ʊ	-iu
ɪ-ʊ ⁴	ua
ɛ-ʊ	-ua

NOTE:

ɪ-ʌ /-am/ is considered as a **simple VOCALIC** (even though it ends with the consonant phone /-m/)

ɪ-ʌ /-ao/ is pronounced short, therefore ɪ-ʌ IS NOT ITS EQUIVALENT IN SHORT. They are two distinct letters: ɪ-ʌ /-ao/
ɪ-ʌʒ /-ʌʒ/

D) Eight vowels and one diphthong change their form according to which type of syllable they belong to:

These letters each have two different symbols, one occurs in open syllables and the other one occurs in closed syllables.

Here x corresponds to the syllable-initial consonant

y corresponds to the syllable-final consonant.

Here the transformation is shown from open syllable to closed syllable.

The first line gives the pattern, the second line gives an example.

$$\begin{array}{l} /-a-/ \quad x\text{ะ} + y = \text{๕}y \\ \quad \text{กะ} + \text{น} = \text{กัณ} \quad (\text{to prevent; together}) \end{array}$$

Here the short vowel -ะ is split in two when followed by a final consonant. It is written above the initial.

-ะ is called สระ -ะ /sà?rà? -a?/ (vowel -a?)

๕ is called ไม้หันอากาศ /máyhǎn?aakàat/ (stick turning in the air)

$$\begin{array}{l} /-əə-/ \quad \text{เ}x\text{อ} + y = \text{เ}๕y \\ \quad \text{เดอ} + \text{น} = \text{เดิน} \quad (\text{to walk}) \end{array}$$

Here อ has disappeared to be replaced by ๕ written above the initial.

เ-อ and เ๕- are both called /sà?rà? -əə and -əə-/.

REMARK:

When $y = \text{ย}$ the element ๕ disappears.

$$\text{เ}x\text{อ} + \text{ย} = \text{เ}x\text{ย}$$

$$\text{เลอ} + \text{ย} = \text{เลย} \quad (\text{beyond, more})$$

/-ə-/ เ-อ๕ undergoes the same transformation as เ-อ but เ-อ๕ is rare and เ๕- is usually read /-əə-/.

$$\begin{array}{l} /-v-/ \quad \text{เ}x\text{าะ} + y = \text{๕๕}y \\ \quad \text{เถาะ} + \text{ง} = \text{ถ้อง} \quad (\text{to push with the elbow}) \end{array}$$

เ-าะ is a special combination to memorize.

Both symbols are rare.

$$\begin{array}{l} /-o-/ \quad \text{โ}x\text{ะ} + y = xy \\ \quad \text{โกะ} + \text{น} = \text{กน} \quad (\text{person}) \end{array}$$

Here the whole symbol disappears. In a closed syllable the phone is not represented by any symbol; /-o/ is then inherent.

/-oo-/ $\begin{matrix} \text{ฮ} \\ \text{ฮ} \end{matrix} \text{อ} + y = \text{ฮ} \text{ย}$
 $\begin{matrix} \text{ฮ} \\ \text{ฮ} \end{matrix} \text{อ} + \text{บ} = \text{ฮ} \text{บ}$ (to make an enquiry)

Here อ just disappears.

/-ua-/ $\text{ฮ} \text{ว} + y = \text{ฮ} \text{ว} \text{ย}$
 $\text{ฮ} \text{ว} + \text{น} = \text{ฮ} \text{วน}$ (garden)

Here ไม่เห็นอากาศ /máyhǎn?aakàat/ disappears.

ว is always read /-ua/

/-e-/ $\text{เ} \text{ฮ} + y = \text{เ} \text{ฮ} \text{ย}$
 $\text{เ} \text{ฮ} + \text{น} = \text{เ} \text{เห็น}$ (to see)

Here -ฮ is replaced by the shortening symbol ฮ written above the initial.

/E/ . Idem with $\text{เ} \text{ฮ}$

REMARK:

The letters corresponding to these eight vowel phones occur in the chart on page 13 and in the recapitulative chart on pages 20 and 21.

The fact that several vocalic phones are represented by two different characters is a great help to the student. Syllables can easily be separated, and the tone rules applied, when vocalics change their form according to their position in the syllable...

7) INHERENT VOWELS /-a?/, /-o/ and /-oo/.

In some cases these vocalic phones occur without being represented by any written symbol. The first two are very short, the third one is long but it can also be pronounced short in rapid speech.

The three inherent vowels can sound rather difficult to understand to the beginner, but the following rules will show that they can be predicted in most cases.

The following examples cannot be considered until the student has a fair knowledge of the entire alphabet and the basic tone rules. They must be used as

exercises when studying chapter 12, the phonetics must then be hidden so the reader works on the pronunciation of each word.

A) /-a?/ : is always pronounced very short.

is pronounced after a syllable built up of one consonant only which never carries any tonal marker, usually followed by at least another syllable.

Exceptions: ศิลป /sǐnlá?pà?/ (arts, crafts)
 สาธารณ /sǎathaará?ná?/ (public)

Examples:

*จมูก /jà?mùuk/ (nose)
 *ฉลาด /chà?làat/ (to be clever, skillful)
 *ตลอด /tà?lòot/ (through, from the beginning to the end)
 *ตลาด /tà?làat/ (market place)
 ไปรษณีย์ /praysà?nii/ (post-office)
 วิทยุ /wí?thá?yú?/ (radio)
 *สนุก /sà?nùk/ (to be pleasant, enjoyable)
 สบาย /sà?baay/ (to feel good)
 สบู่ /sà?bùu/ (soap)
 สัปดาห์ /sàppà?daa/ (week -formal-)
 *สรุป /sà?rùp/ (to summarize)
 สาธารณ /sǎathaará?ná?/ (general, public)
 *อเนิง /?à?nèng/ (besides)
 อนุญาต /?à?nú?yâat/ (to give leave, licence or permission)
 *อร่อย /?à?rò y/ (to be tasty, delicious)

The asterisk shows the examples to consider when studying chapter 12, [B) TYPE 3 on page 97, and b) on page 102], and chapter 13 (1A).

B) /-o-/ : is always pronounced very short.

is pronounced in closed syllables when no written vocalic occurs (usually monosyllabic words): the first consonant is the initial, which carries a tonal marker when required, the following consonant is the syllable-final letter.

Examples:

กบ	/kòp/	(frog)
จน	/jon/	(to be poor; until, till)
ตกลง	/tòkloŋ/	(OK)
ตบ	/tòp/	(to slap, to hit with hands)
ต้ม	/tôm/	(to boil)
ทน	/thon/	(to endure, to continue, to last)
ธง	/thon/	(flag)
นก	/nók/	(bird)
บน	/bon/	(on, above)
น้ำนม	/námnom/	(milk)
ผม	/phǎm/	(hair; I, me -man speaking-)
ฝน	/fǎn/	(rain) and ฝนตก /fǎntòk/ (to rain)
พบ	/phóp/	(to meet somebody)
มณโฑ	/monthoo/	(one of the characters appearing in the Ramayana)
มด	/mót/	(ant)
ลม	/lom/	(wind)
ล้ม	/lóm/	(to stumble)

สับปะรด	/sàppàʔrót/	(pineapple)
หก	/hòk/	(six)
อก	/ʔòk/	(chest)

.....

C) /-วว/ : is usually pronounced long except when there is neutralisation in rapid speech.

is mostly pronounced between บ and ร in words beginning with these two letters but also occurs occasionally in a few words which always have ร as the second consonant.

Examples:

จระเข้	/jwáráʔkhêe/	(crocodile)
บรมสุข	/bwá rommáʔsùk/	(supreme happiness)
บริบูรณ์	/bwá ríʔbuun/	(perfect, complete; plentiful)
บริเวณ	/bwá ríʔween/	(neighbourhood, environment)
บริษัท	/bwá ríʔsàt/	(business company)
มรกต	/mwáráʔkòt/	(emerald)
มรสุม	/mwáráʔsǔm/	(season of wind and storms, monsoon)

.....

/ วว / is also pronounced in certain words ending in a double consonant of which ร is the final.

Examples:

ถาวร	/thǎawwón/	(permanent, strong, durable)
นคร	/náʔkhwón/	(city)
ละคร	/láʔkhwón/	(staged play)
อากร	/ʔaakwón/	(revenue) AND ภาษีอากร /phaasiiʔaakwón/ (income taxes)

8) GENERAL CHART OF THE 25 VOWEL SYMBOLS:

A Thai word is given to illustrate the use of each vowel symbol.

The first hyphen from the left (or the single one) shows the position of the syllable-initial, the second hyphen shows the position of the final.

NOTE: It is most important to make the distinction between short and long vowels to be able to apply the tone rules.

IN CLOSED SYLLABLES			IN OPEN SYLLABLES		
[VOWELS pronounced in medial position]			[VOWELS pronounced in final position]		
REMARKS	phonetics	letter	phonetics	letter	Thai words
ㅡ is called ไม่น้ำอากาศ /máyhǎn?aakàat/	/-a-/	ㅡ * ㅡรㅡ	/-a?/	inherent ㅡะ	ฟัน /fan/ (tooth) ทหาร /thá?hǎan/ (soldier) ธรรมดา /thammá?daa/ (regular) จะ /jǎ?/ (will, shall)
sometimes short as in ท่าน /thān/ (you) but RARE	/-aa-/	-า-	/-aa/	-า	จาน /jaan/ (plate) มา /maa/ (to come)
RARE	/-ə-/	เㅡ	/-ə?/	เ-ะ	เงิน /gəŋ/ (money, silver) เลอะ /lɔ?/ (dirty)
	/-əə-/	เㅡ	/-əə/	เ-อ	เกิด /kəət/ (born) เลินเล่อ /lɔənlɔə/ (careless)
	/-i-/	ิㅡ	/-i?/	ิ	ลิง /lɪŋ/ (monkey)
	/-ii-/	เิㅡ	/-ii/	เิ	หีบ /hɪp/ (trunk)
ใ-าะ is /-ɔ?/and not short /-ao/ (refer to next chapter)	/-ɔ-/	ใ-อ- -อ-	/-ɔ?/	ใ-าะ	คลอง /khlɔŋ/ (canal) เลาะ /lɔ?/ (to undo) พลั๊ย /phlɔ̌y/ (suddenly)

IN CLOSED SYLLABLES			IN OPEN SYLLABLES		
[VOWELS pronounced in medial position]			[VOWELS pronounced in final position]		
REMARKS	phonetics	letter	phonetics	letter	Thai words
	/-ɔɔ-/	-อ-	/-ɔɔ/	-อ inherent	ชอบ /chɔɔp/ (to like) หมอ /mɔɔ/ (doctor) มรกต /mɔɔrǎʔkót/ (emerald)
RARE in final position	/-o-/	inherent	/-oʔ/	ไ-ะ	คน /khon/ (person) โต๊ะ /tót/ (table)
	/-oo-/	ไ--	/-oo/	ไ-	โซ่ /sōo/ (chain)
	/-u-/	เ--	/-uʔ/	เ	หนึ่ง /nèŋ/ (one)
	/-uu-/	เ--	/-uu/	เ-อ	ขื่น /khèun/ (bitter) ชื่อ /chhū/ (name)
	/-uu-/	เ--	/-uu/	เ	จุฬา /jùʔlaa/ (kite)
	/-e-/	เ--	/-eʔ/	เ-ะ	เด็ก /dèk/ (child) เตะ /tèʔ/ (to kick)
	/-ee-/	เ--	/-ee/	เ-	เณร /neen/ (buddhist monk)
not very common with เ	/-E-/	เเ--	/-Eʔ/	เเ-ะ	แข็ง /khǎŋ/ (hard) และ /lɛʔ/ (and)
	/-EE-/	เเ--	/-EE/	เเ-	แหวน /wǎEn/ (ring)

*Special consonant combination considered on page 94.

9) DIPTHONGS AND TRIPHTHONGS : GENERAL CHART.

-am	ำ	ทำ /tham/ (to do, to make)	considered as a simple vocalic.
-ao	เา	เต่า /tào/ (turtle)	logically เา should be the short equivalent, but it is NOT.
-aao	าว	ยาว /yaa/ (long)	
-ay	ัย	ภัย /phay/ (danger)	RARE
-ay	ไ	ใส /sây/ (clear, transparent)	
-ay	ไ	ไกล /klay/ (far, far away)	
-aay	าย	ขาย /khây/ (to sell)	
-oy	เอย	เลย /lôy/ (further, more)	
ia	เีย	เมีย /mia/ (wife) เรียน /rian/ (to study)	
-iao	เียว	เขียว /khiáo/ (green)	
-iu	ิว	หิว /hiú/ (to be hungry)	RARE
-oyy	อย	ลอย /lôyy/ (to float)	
-ooy	ไย	โบย /booy/ (to whip)	RARE
ea	เื่อ	เรือ /raa/ (boat); เพื่อน /phûan/ (friend)	
-eay	เือย	เรื่อย /rây/ (continually...)	only found in about twenty common words.
-ua	ัว	ตัว /tua/ (classifier for animals...)	occurs only in final position.
-ua-	ัว-	ขวด /khùat/ (bottle)	ัว used alone in medial position is a vocalic.
-uaa	ัวา	ขวา /khuaa/ (right -direction-)	
-uay	้วย	สวย /suây/ (pretty -girl-)	

-uaay	—uaay	භරාය /khuaay/ (buffalo)	
-uy	භු	භු /khuy/ (to chat)	RARE
-eo	භු	භු /reo/ (fast)	
-eeo	භු	භු /leeo/ (inferior, worthless)	
-EEo	භු	භු /mEEo/ (cat)	

NOTES:

- a) Only the two compound diphthongs /ia/ and /ua/ can be found in closed syllables. All other compound diphthongs and triphthongs only occur in open syllables.
- b) භු is the only way to write the short vocalic phone /ao/.

CHAPTER 4

IRREGULARITIES IN THE LENGTH OF CERTAIN VOCALIC PHONES

(This chapter contains hints on pronunciation rather than basic rules. It must be skipped until page 97.)

1) **เ- , ເ- and อ.** in a closed syllable, when the initial carries a tonal marker:

When these three letters are short the initial carries **ไม้ต่ำ** /máytà'khúu/, the shortening symbol **๕**

When the initial carries a tonal marker **๕** cannot be used, therefore a few general rules have to be considered.

A) **เ-** used in a syllable carrying one of the 4 tonal markers is usually pronounced short as in:

เก่ง /kèŋ/ (skilled)

เป้ง /pěŋ/ (straight; sharp -time for an appointment-)

.....

B) **เ- and -อ** used in a live syllable pronounced in the low tone are usually short as in:

ส่อง /sòŋ/ (to shine)

บ่อย /b'òy/ (often)

....

C) **เ- and อ** used in a live syllable pronounced in the high tone are always long as in:

แล้ว /l'ÉÉo/ (already)





ร้อน /r'óon/ (hot)

.....

D) **เ-** and **-อ** used in a live syllable pronounced in the falling tone can be short or long depending on the word as in:

พ่อ /phôw/ (father) แشىง /khÊŋ/ (shin)
 ห้อง /hôn/ (room) แป้ง /pÊÊŋ/ (flour; face powder)

E) Recapitulative chart:

TYPE OF SYLLABLE	เ-	เ- and -อ	tone
LIVE	usually pronounced short	G1 or G2 + แม่เอก /máŋ?èek/ (1) ท น้า /háv nam/ + G3S + แม่เอก (1) usually SHORT	(a) 
		G1 or G2 + แม่เอก /máŋthoo/ (2) G3 + แม่เอก /máŋ?èek/ (1) SHORT or LONG	(b) 
		G3 + แม่เอก /máŋthoo/ (2) always LONG	(c) 
		G1 + แม่เอกจ้าว /máŋjattà?waa/ (3) usually SHORT RARE	(d) 
DEAD		usually SHORT RARELY FOUND WITH A TONAL MARKER	(e)

a) examples:

เก่ง /kèn/ (skilled)
 แจ่ม /jÊm/ (clear, transparent)
 แบ่ง /bÊŋ/ (to divide)
 เผลน /phèn/ (to leap)
 น้อย /nò y/ (a little)

one common exception: ก้อน /kʰwɔŋ/ (previously)

b) examples:

Long	Short
แกล้ง /kɿĒĒŋ/ (to pretend)	ต้อง /tʰɔŋ/ (to have to)
พ่อ /phwɔ/ (father)	ยกย่อง /yókʰyɔŋ/ (to admire, to honor)
ยี่ห้อ /yihhɔ/ (trade mark)	เลื่อน /lĒŋ/ (to glide)
.....	
	ห้อย /hɔŋ/ (to hang down)
.....

c) examples:

แท้	/thĒĒ/	(genuine, real)
พ้อง	/phwɔŋ/	(synonymous, kindred)
แม้	/mĒĒ/	(even though)
ยิ้ม	/yĒĒm/	(gay, smiling)
ร้อน	/rɔŋ/	(hot)
แร้ง	/rĒĒŋ/	(vulture)
ล้อม	/lɔŋm/	(to circle)
.....		

d) examples:

กระป๋อง	/kràʔpɔŋ/	(tin, can)
แก้ว	/jĒo/	(crystal)
เป้	/pěʔ/	(twisted, distorted)
.....		

e) In dead syllables tonal markers are always rare as tones are already expressed.

When a dead syllable carries a tonal marker -อ, -เ, -ไ are usually read short except in a few loanwords.

2) OTHER LONG VOCALICS USED AS SHORT:

A) เ- is nearly always considered as long, still there are at least two words to memorize with เ- used as short:

เงิน	/ŋən/	(money, silver)
เจ็จนอง	/jə̀ŋnɔŋ/	(to be flooded, inundated)

B) There are at least two monosyllabic words spelt with -า- pronounced short:

ท่าน /thân/ (you, he, she, they -used by either men or women to show respect for rank rather than personal respect; in written language it is the ordinary word to use for « you » -)

งาน	/ŋan/	(work)
-----	-------	----------

3) SHORT VOCALICS USED AS LONG:

A) -า, -เ, -ไ, -อ often sound long in live monosyllabic words pronounced in the high tone when these words are alone or in final position, but they are often pronounced short when they are followed by at least one syllable in compound words.

Examples:

เช้ามืด	/cháomûut/	(early dawn)
ต้นไม้	/tônmaáy/	(tree, plant)
ผลไม้	/phǒnlá?maáy/	(fruit)

น้ำแข็ง	/námkhĕŋ/	(ice)
น้ำนม	/námnom/	(milk)
ไม้กวาด	/máykwaat/	(broom)
ไม้ขีด (ไฟ)	/máykhiit/ /faay/	(matches)
ไม้เอก	/máy?èek/	(first tonal marker ˊ)
ห้องน้ำ	/hŏŋnáam/	(toilets, washrooms)
.....		

B) As a general rule:

In live syllables, vocalics have a tendency to be lengthened when in word final position.

C) One common monosyllabic word is always pronounced with long ใ-1

เปล่า	/plǎao/	(to be empty)
-------	---------	-----------------

CHAPTER 5

LETTER SYMBOLS: CONSONANTS.

1) GENERALITIES:

Thai consonants take alphabetical precedence over Thai vocalics.

Symbol-wise there are forty-four consonants although two of them are now obsolete.

Regarding the tone rules, the forty-four letters are divided into three categories respectively called: middle class, high class and low class. In this manual they will be referred to as Group 1 (G1), Group 2 (G2) and Group 3 (G3). Each of these consonant groups follows its own specific tone rules.

2) PHONETIC VALUE AND PRONUNCIATION:

Each consonant letter is pronounced with the carrying vowel /-ɔɔ/ when considered individually. Then the consonant phone preceding /-ɔɔ/ is the phonetic value of this letter **IN SYLLABLE-INITIAL POSITION**, as fifteen letters have a different value in syllable-final position (see the corresponding chart on page 58). There are only six final consonant phonetic values: /-k/, /-p/, /-t/ or dead endings, and /-m/, /-n/, /-ŋ/ or live endings.

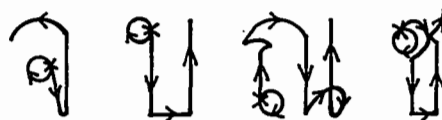
REMARK:

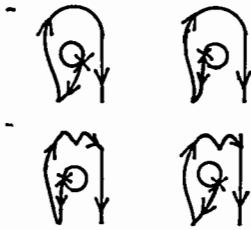
Consonant endings are always pronounced very short and half « swallowed » , therefore /-k/ sounds more like /-g/, /-p/ like /-b/ and /-t/ like /-d/ as they are transcribed in some other manuals.

3) HOW TO DRAW THAI CONSONANTS:

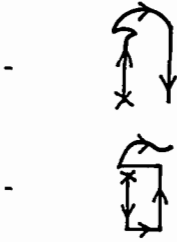
The basic rule is to write from left to right starting with the loop and trying to complete the letter in one stroke. It is very important to notice whether the pen must go up or down when drawing the loop

Examples:





Only two consonants are written without any loop.



4) WHY SO MANY LETTERS ?

As the Thai language developed from its earliest origins, borrowing heavily from Sanskrit, Pali, Mon and Kmer, more and more letters were added to the alphabet. In 1283 King Ram Khamheng controlled this growth by introducing a simplified standard Thai alphabet, although a few uncommon letters were maintained to indicate the ethymology of certain words. However two consonants, which are still in dictionaries, are now obsolete.

5) HOW TO NAME THAI CONSONANTS:

Each consonant letter has been provided with an arbitrary designatory name to be used when orally spelling words. It is usually a common noun of which the first letter is the consonant so named.

Example: ก กา /kə kà/ equivalent to K like Korea.

This method is to facilitate the distinction between two or more consonants with the same phonetic value as the forty-four letters correspond to only twenty-one different sounds. This is how the alphabet is taught in Thai primary schools. Nevertheless, Thai adults now tend to spell without the designatory word, considering it rather childish. However, this is the only method to give verbally the correct spelling of most Thai words.

Exceptions:

ร is called ร หั้น /rɔɔ hǎn/ when double and pronounced /-an/ or /-a-/.

ห is called ห นำ /hǎw nam/ when placed before a G3 initial sonorant to change the tone of the syllable.

อ is called อ นำ /ʔɔɔ nam/ when placed in front of the four following words to change the tone of the syllable into the low tone:

อย่า /yàa/ (do not . . .)

อยาก /yàak/ (to want to)

อย่าง /yàaŋ/ (kind, sort of . . .)

อยู่ /yùu/ (to live at, to stay at, to be at)

ค is also called /sǎw khɔɔ/ from its resemblance to the letter ก.

ส is also called /sǎw lɔɔ/ from its resemblance to the letter ล.

NOTE:

As it can be noticed in the four words given above, อ นำ does not carry the tonal marker, ห นำ does not carry it either.

6) THE FOURTY-FOUR CONSONANTS: CHART.

The following chart shows the three groups as they must be memorized.

The consonants are given with their designatory name. The number corresponds to the position of each letter in alphabetical order.

At this stage the student does not have to memorize the spelling of each word but must be able to remember the designatory name corresponding to each letter pronounced with the right tones.

The student must have a perfect knowledge of both vocalic and consonant alphabets to be able to study any further. He must be able to make the distinction between short vowels and long vocalics, consonants belonging to G1, G2 and G3.

G1 middle class (9 letters)		G2 high class (11 letters)		G3 low class (24 letters)	
ก กอ ไก่ /koo:kay/ (chicken)	1	ข ขอ ไข่ /koo:khai/ (egg)	2	ค คอ ควาย /koo:khwaay/ (buffalo)	4
		ช ขอ ขวด /koo:khua/ (bottle)	3	อ คน /koo:khon/ (person)	5
จ จอ จาน /joo:jaan/ (plate)	8	ฉ ขอ ชิ่ง /choo:ching/ (type of musical instrument)	9	ฉ ขอ ช้าง /choo:chaang/ (elephant)	6
ค คอ เด็ก /doo:dek/ (child)	20			ฉ ขอ เถย /choo:thoe/ (small bush)	10
ฉ ขอ ขลุ่ย /doo:khloo/ (classical dance hat)	14				12
ด คอเต่า /doo:tao/ (turtle)	21	ด ขอ ถุง /doo:thung/ (shopping bag)	22	ท ขอ ทหาร /thoo:thaa/ (soldier)	23
ถ ขอ ประพุก /doo:pra:taak/ (harpoon)	15	ฐ ขอ ฐาน /thoo:thaaan/ (pedestal)	16	ฒ ขอ ผู้เฒ่า /thoo:phuthaa/ (old man)	18
				ฑ ขอ มนไทย /thoo:monthoo/ (a character of RAMAYANA)	17
				ธ ขอ ธง /thoo:thop/ (flag)	24
ป ปอ ปลา /poo:plaa/ (kind of fish)	27	ห ขอ ผึ้ง /poo:phung/ (bee)	28	พ ขอ พาน /poo:phaan/ (offering tray)	30
		ฝ ขอ ผ้า /poo:pha/ (lid)	29	ภ ขอ สำเภา /poo:samphao/ (chinese junk)	32
		ส ขอ เสือ /doo:sue/ (tiger)	40	ฟ ขอ ฟัน /poo:fan/ (tooth)	31
		ศ ขอ ศาลา /doo:sala/ (public Rest House)	38	ช ขอ โซ่ /doo:sao/ (chain for animals)	11
		ษ ขอ ฤษี /doo:ris/ (hermit)	39		
อ ออ อ่าง /doo:aaang/ (bucket)	43	ห ขอ หีบ /doo:hip/ (trunk)	41	ฮ ขอ นกฮูก /hoo:nokhuuk/ (owl)	44
บ บอ ใบไม้ /doo:baymay/ (leaf)	26				
				ง ขอ งู /hoo:nguu/ (snake)	7
				น ขอ หนู /hoo:nuu/ (mouse)	25
				ณ ขอ เณร /hoo:neen/ (buddhist monk)	19
				ม ขอ ม้า /hoo:maa/ (horse)	33
				ย ขอ ยักษ์ /yoo:yak/ (demon)	34
				ญ ขอ หญิง /yoo:ying/ (woman)	13
				ร ขอ เรือ /hoo:reua/ (boat)	35
				ล ขอ ลิง /lao:ling/ (monkey)	36
				ฬ ขอ จุฬา /doo:jula/ (kite)	42
				ว ขอ แหวน /hoo:waeuan/ (ring)	37

7) THE 44 CONSONANTS AND THEIR PARTICULARITIES:

A) This paragraph should be used as a reference when working on exercises. Learning it by heart would be fastidious and discouraging. It is highly recommended to read it once though and come back anytime needed.

B) The hyphen shows the position of the consonant phonetic value in syllable-initial and final position.

The designatory name corresponding to each consonant letter is mentioned, followed by an example giving the phonetic value in syllable-final position.

The tone of syllables built up of C + SI /-a?/ is also mentioned as this depends only on the category to which the initial belongs.

ก /k/

ไก่ /kəw kà/ (chicken)

หก /hòk/ (six)

- very common letter in both initial and final position.

- กร in initial position is usually read:

/kà?r./ with the short inherent /-a?/ pronounced between the two letters, when they are followed by another consonant AND other letters as in กรณีย์ /kà?rá?nii/ (duty, obligation)

/kro./, with the short inherent /-o-/ pronounced after the two letters, when they are directly followed by one consonant only, as in กรม /krom/ (to snore)

/kr./ when ร carries a vocalic, as in กระเป๋า /krà?pǎo/ (pocket; bag)

- กรร is usually read /kan/, as in กรรไกร /kankray/ (scissors)

กรรโชก /kanchòok/ (to threaten)

.....

One of the few exceptions: กกรรม /kam/ (results of mistakes made in a previous life) and all compound words beginning with กกรรม .

- when ก is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/kà?/), except in some cases with ถ (กถ is often read /kl-/) as well as with ฎ and ฏ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: กบ /kòp/ (frog)
 กลับ /klàp/ (to return)
 กวาด /kùaat/ (to sweep)
 กอง /kooŋ/ (pile; to pile)

.....

ข /kh-/ /-k/

ไข่ /khǎw khày/ (egg)
 บรมสุข /bɔɔrommá'sùk/ (supreme happiness)

- ขร and ขรร only occur in a very few words in initial position.

- when ข is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/khà?/), except with ถ in some cases (ขถ is often read /khl-/) as well as with ฎ and ฏ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: ขบ /khòp/ (to crack with the teeth)
 ขยิบตา /khà'yiptaa/ (to wink, to blink)
 ขวด /khùat/ (bottle)

ของ /khǎwŋ/ (things)

.....

ข /kh-/ /-k/

OBSOLETE

now replaced by ข ไข่

ค /kh-/ /-k/

ค ควาย /khǎw khuaay/ (buffalo)

พรรค /phák/ (group, multitude -of similar people or articles-)

- คร in initial position is usually read /khr-/

Ex: ครั่ง /khráŋ/ (occasion, time)

- ครร is rare.

- when ค is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/khá?/), except with ค in some cases (คค is often read /khl-/) as well as with ก and อ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: คณิต /khá?nít/ (the science of computation)

คน /khon/ (person)

คลอง /khlǎwŋ/ (canal)

ควร /khuan/ (to ought to)

.....

ค /kh-/ /-k/

OBSOLETE:

nów replaced by ค ควาย

ฅ /kh-/ /-k/

ฅ ระฆัง /khwa rá?khaŋ/ (temple bell)

เมฅ /mêek/ (cloud)

- mainly occurs in old words.

- one common word: ฆ้อง /khóʋŋ/ (gong)

ง /ŋ/

ง งู /ŋwa ŋuu/ (snake)

ลิง /liŋ/ (monkey)

- งร and งรร are rare.

- ง directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, only occurs in a few words. The short inherent vowel /-o-/ is usually read between the two letters, except with ฅ and ฅ considered as diphthong and vowel.

จ /j-/ /-t/

จ จาน /jwa jaan/ (plate)

จุจ /dùt/ (like, just as. .)

- จร in initial position is usually read /jàʔr./, with the inherent /-a?/ pronounced between the two consonants.

two common exceptions: จระเข้ /jɔɔ ráʔkêe/ (crocodile)
 จริง /jin/ (to be true) ร is
 silent.

- จรร is rare but there are two common words to memorize:

จรรยา /janyaa/ (behaviour, morality)

จรรโลง /janloong/ (to prevent from falling, to support)

- When จ is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent /-aʔ/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters, (/jàʔ/), except with ฎ and ฏ considered as diphthong and vowel.

ฉ /ch-/

ฉิ่ง /chǎw chìn/ (type of musical instrument)

never occurs in syllable-final position.

- ฉร and ฉรร are rare.

- When ฉ is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent /-aʔ/ is usually pronounced between the two letters (/chàʔ/), except with ฎ and ฏ considered as diphthong and vowel.

ช /ch-/ /-t/

ช้าง /chɔɔ cháaŋ/ (elephant)

ประโยชน์ /pràʔyòot/ (to be useful) -Irregular tone-

- ชร in initial position is usually read /chr-/ but it is rare.

- When ช is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial

position, the short inherent /-a?/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/chá?/), except with ๗ and ๘ considered as diphthong and vowel.

ชม /chom/ (to admire)
 ช่วย /chûay/ (to help, to assist)
 ช้อง /chóʉŋ/ (wig)

.....

ซ /s-/

โซ่ /sɔɔ sôo/ (chain for animals)

never occurs in syllable-final position.

- สระ directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, only occurs in a few words.

- one common word with ซ used as the initial : ซอย /sɔɔ y/ (small streets perpendicular to the main streets)

ช /ch-/ /-t/

ช ฒอ /chɔɔ chəə/ (small bush -old word-)

- this letter only occurs in a few words.

ญ /y-/ /-n/

ญ หญิง /yɔɔ yǐŋ/ (woman)

บังเอิญ /baŋ?əən/ (accidentally)

- this letter rarely occurs in initial position.

- one common word: ยี่ปุ่น /yîipùn/ (Japanese)

ฎ /d-/ /-t/

ฎ ชฎา /dʰwɔɔ cháʔdaa/ (classical dance hat)

กฏ /kòt/ (rule)

- this letter is nearly obsolete in initial position.

ฏ /t/

ฏ ประทุก /tɔɔ pràʔtāk/ (harpoon)

ปรากฏ /praakòt/ (clear, manifest; to seem, to appear)

- this letter rarely occurs in initial position.

ฐ /th-/ /-t/

ฐ ฐาน /thǎw thǎan/ (base, platform)

ประเสริฐ /pràʔsə̀ət/ (precious, esteemed)

- this letter rarely occurs in initial position.

ฑ /th-/ /-t/

ฑ มณโฑ /thɔɔ monthoo/ (a character in the Ramayana)

ครุฑ /khrút/ (Garuda -mythical bird-)

- this letter is mainly found in syllable-final position.

ฒ /th-/ /-t/

ฒ ผู้เฒ่า /thɔɔ phûuthâo/ (old and respected person)

- this letter is nearly obsolete.

ณ /n/

ณ เณร	/nɔɔ neen/	(young buddhist monk)
คุณ	/khun/	(title used in front of first names to show respect)

- this letter is mainly found in syllable-final position.

ด /d-/ /-t/

ด เด็ก	/dɔɔ dèk/	(children)
ตลาด	/tàʔlàat/	(market place)

- ดร is usually pronounced /dàʔr. . . / with the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/ pronounced between the two letters, but it is rare.
- ด directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, only occurs in a few words, but is usually pronounced with the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/ or /-o-/ between the two letters (/dàʔ/), except with ๓ and อ considered as diphthong and vowel.

ต /t/

ต เต่า	/tɔɔ tàɔ/	(turtle)
ชีวิต	/chiiwít/	(life, age)

- ตร in initial position is usually read /tr. . . /

Ex:	ตรง	/tron/	(straight)
	ตรวจ	/truət/	(to verify)

.....

- when ต is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/tǎ?/), except with ง and อ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: ต้ม /tôm/ (to cook in water)
 ตลาด /tǎ?lǎat/ (market place)
 ต้อง /tûng/ (must, to have to)

ถ /th-/ /-t/

ถ ถุง /thwǎ thûng/ (bag)
 รถ /rót/ (vehicle)

- ถร and ถรร are rare.

- when ถ is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/thǎ?/), except with ง and อ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: ถนน /thǎ?nǎn/ (street)
 ถ่ม /thòm/ (to spit)
 ถ้วย /thûay/ (cup)

ท /th-/ /-t/

ท ทหาร /thwǎ thǎ?hǎan/ (soldier)
 บาท /bàat/ (baht -Thai currency-)

- ทร in initial position is usually read:

/s-/ as in	ทรัพย์	/sáp/	(wealth, possessions)
	ทราบ	/sâap/	(to know)
	ทราย	/saay/	(sand)
	หด	/sút/	(to shrink, to lessen)

/thwɔr. . . / as in ทร /thwɔráʔ/ (prefix equal to “un” or “dis”)
 กระจุม /thwɔráʔsǔm/ (put together, bunched, clustered)

- when ท is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/tháʔ/), except with ฎ and ฏ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: ทน /thon/ (to endure, to bear)
 ทวด /thúat/ (great-grandfather or mother)

.....

ธ /th-/ /-t/

ธง /thwɔ thon/ (flag)

โกรธ /kròot/ (to be or become angry)

- ทร in initial position is usually read /thwɔr. . . / but only occurs in a few words.

- ธรรม in initial position mainly occurs in compound words beginning with the monosyllabic word ธรรม /tham/ (justice; Dharma -Buddhist teaching-)

- when **บ** is directly followed by another consonant in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or sometimes /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/thá?/).

น /n/

น หนู /นอว นู้/ (mouse)

อ้วน /?uán/ (to be fat, corpulent)

- นร rarely occurs in initial position.

one common word: นรก /ná?rók/ (hell)

- when **น** is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/ná?/), except with **ว** and **อ** considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: นก /nók/ (bird)

นคร /ná?khwa n/ (city)

นอก /nók/ (outside, exterior)

.....

บ /b-/ /-p/

บ ใบไม้ /บอว baymáay/ (leaf)

ดิบ /díp/ (raw, unripe, half-cooked)

- บร in initial position is usually pronounced /บอว r. . ./. Lots of

words begin with ปรี /bɔɔ riʔ.../.

* Ex: บริษัท /bɔɔ riʔsàt/ (business company)

- บรร in initial position is usually read /ban/.

Ex: บรรณาการ /bannaakaan/ (gift, present)

บรรดา /bandaa/ (whole, entire; everyone)

- when ป is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the inherent vowel /-o-/ is usually pronounced between the two letters, except with ฎ and ฏ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: ป่น /bòn/ (to lament, to deplore)

ปวง /bùaŋ/ (a loop)

บอก /bɔɔk/ (to tell)

.....

ป /p/

ปลา /pɔɔ plaa/ (kind of fish)

ทวีป /tháʔwiiip/ (continent)

- ปรี in initial position is usually read /pr-/ and occasionally /pàʔr. . / with the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/(mainly words beginning with ปรี).

Ex: ประจำปี /pràʔjampii/ (annual, annually)

ประตู /pràʔtuu/ (door)

.....

- ปรร is rare.

- when ป is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or sometimes /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/pà?/), except in most cases with ล (ปล is usually read /pl-/) as well as with ฎ and อ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex:	ปกติ	/pòkkà?tì?/	(normal)
	ปลา	/plaa/	(kind of fish)
	ปอด	/pòwt/	(lung)
		

ผ /ph-/

ผ ผึ้ง /phǎw phûng/ (bee)

never occurs in syllable-final position.

- ผธิ only occurs in a few words in initial position.
- ผธิ is rare.

- when ผ is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or sometimes /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/phà?/), except in most cases with ล (ผล is usually read /phl-/) as well as with ฎ and อ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex:	ผม	/phǎm/	(hair; I, me -man speaking-)
	ผลัด	/phlàt/	(to take turns with, to change places with)
		

ฝ /f-/

ฝ ฝา /fǎw fǎa/ (lid, cover)

never occurs in syllable-final position.

- ฝ is rarely directly followed by another consonant in word-initial position. There are three common words to memorize.

ฝน /fǒn/ (rain) and ฝนตก /fǒntòk/ (to rain)

ฝรั่ง /fà?ràŋ/ (the white race of people)

ฝรั่งเศส /fà?ràŋsèet/ (French)

พ /ph-/ /p/

พ พาน /phw phaan/ (offering tray)

กรุงเทพฯ /krunthêep/ (Bangkok)

- พร in initial position is usually read /phr-/

Ex: พร้อม /phróm/ (to be ready)

- พร in initial position only occurs in a few words and is usually pronounced /phan/.

- when พ is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or sometimes /o/ is pronounced between the two letters (/phá?/), except in most cases with ล (พล is usually read /phl-/) as well as with ว and อ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: พยางค์ /phá?yaŋ/ (syllable)

พวก /phûak/ (crowd, group of people)
 พอ /phw/ (enough, sufficient; as soon as)

ฟ /f-/

ฟ ฟัน /fww fan/ (tooth)

never occurs in syllable final position, except in a few loanwords borrowed from English.

Ex: ออฟฟิศ /ʔwəpfit/ (office)

- ฟ directly followed by another consonant is rare.

ภ /ph-/ /-p/

ภ ลำภา /phw sǎmphao/ (chinese junk)

लाभ /lǎap/ (acquisition of gain)

- ภ in initial position is usually read /phr-/ or /pháʔr. . . / with the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/. ภ only occurs in a few words.

- ภร in initial position is usually read /phan/ ; it only occurs in a very few words.

- when ภ is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/ is usually read between the two letters (/pháʔ/).

ม /m/

ม ม้า /mɔɔ máa/ (horse)
ยิ้ม /yím/ (smile, to smile)

- มร in initial position is usually pronounced /máʔr. . . / with the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/ pronounced between the two letters, but it is rare.

two exceptions: มรกต /mɔɔráʔkòt/ (emerald)
มรสุม /mɔɔráʔsǔm/ (raining season)

- in มรร, รร is pronounced /-a/ or /-an/ but only occurs in a few words.
- when ม is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/máʔ/), except with ฎ and ฏ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: มด /mót/ (ants)
ม่วง /mûaŋ/ (purple, violet)
มหาวิทยาลัย /máʔháawíttháʔyaalay/ (university)
มอ /mɔɔ/ (grey, ash colour)

.....

ย /y-/

ย ยักษ์ /yɔɔ yák/ (giant, superhuman creatures)

never occurs in final position as a consonant.

- ย is a consonant in syllable-initial position.
- ย never occurs in syllable-medial position.
- ย is part of a compound vocalic when in syllable-final position.
- ยร and ยรร are rare.
- when ย is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/yá?/), except with ฎ and ฏ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: ย่น /yôn/ (to shorten, to abbreviate; wrinkle)

ยมก /yá?mók/ (the mark “๑” used in Thai writing after a word or a phrase which is to be repeated, a repetition mark).

ย้อม /yówm/ (to dye)

.....

ร /r-/ /-n/

ร เรือ /rɔɔ rua/ (boat)

อาหาร /ʔaahǎan/ (food)

- when ร is a final placed directly after the initial, in a syllable which does not carry any vocalic symbol, it is pronounced /-ɔɔn/.

Ex: นคร /ná?khɔɔn/ (city)

- when ร is followed by a consonant in initial position, it follows the same rules as ย .
- when ร occurs alone in the middle of a word as the initial of a syllable ,

which does not have any written vocalic, it is pronounced /ráʔ/ with the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/.

Ex: มรกต /mɔɔrákòt/ (emerald)

- when รร occurs in **syllable-medial position**, it has the same value as the short vowel(๖) หมั่นอากาศ/máyhǎnʔaakàat/(stick turning in the air), and is pronounced /-a-/.

Ex: ธรรม /tham/ (justice; Dharma -Buddhist teaching-)

- when รร occurs in **syllable-final position**, it is pronounced /-an/

Ex: กรรไกร /kankray/ (scissors)

- when รร occurs in syllable-final position followed by another syllable, the second ร has a double function in some cases. It is the final of the first syllable and the initial of the second.

Ex: ภรรยา /phanráʔyaa/ (wife, spouse)

- รร is called ร หั้น /rɔɔ hǎn/

In initial position it mainly occurs in the following combinations:

กรร usually read /kan/

ธรรม usually read /tham/

บรร usually read /ban/

- when ร occurs directly after the syllable-initial, it is silent in some cases.

main combinations: พร, ปร, สร

Ex: ทราบ /sâap/ (to know)
เศร้า /sâo/ (to be sad)
สร้อยคอ /sŭ ykhwa/ (necklace)

one special word beginning with จร :

จริง /jin/ (truth)

REMARK: As shown in the examples given above, when ร is silent, instead of the initial, ร carries all upperscript symbols (see chapter 12).

ร can be silent in syllable-final position (see pages 117 and 118).

ล /l-/ /-n/

ล ลิง /loŋ lin/ (monkey)
ตำบล /tamboŋ/ (district)

- ลร and ลรร are rare.

- when ล is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/lá?/), except with ฎ and ฃ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: ลบ /lóp/ (to erase)
ลม /lom/ (wind)
ล่วง /lŭaŋ/ (to pass by, to slip away -time-; to do violence to)
ลอย /loŋy/ (to float)
.....

ว /w-/

ว แหว่น /wɔw wĕEn/ (ring)

never occurs in final position as a consonant.

- ว is a consonant when in syllable-initial position.
- ว is the diphthong /-ua-/ in syllable-medial position.
- ว is part of a compound vocalic when in syllable-final position.
- วรร in initial position is usually read /wáʔr./ with the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/, but only occurs in a few words.
- วรรร only occurs in a very few words.

one common word: วรรคตอน /wáktɔw/ (paragraph)

- when ว is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/wáʔ/), except with อ considered as a vowel.

Ex: วรรณ /wáʔrun/ (a male first name)

วอน /wɔwɔn/ (to implore)

.....

ศ /s-/ /-t/

ศ ศาลา /sǎw sǎalaa/ (public rest house)

also called ศ ธิ from its resemblance to the letter ธิ.

อากาศ /ʔaakàat/ (air, atmosphere)

ประเทศ /pràʔthêet/ (country, nation)

- ศร in initial position is usually read:

/sàʔr. . ./ with the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/

Ex: ศรಾವก /sàʔraawók/ (buddhist monk)

/s-/ then ร is silent.

Ex: ศรี /sǐi/ (splendor)

- in ศรร, รร is usually pronounced /-a-/ , but it only occurs in a few words.

- when ศ is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/ or sometimes /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/sàʔ/), except with ฏ and occasionally ฏ considered as diphthong and vowel.

ษ /s-/ /-t/

ษ ฤณี /sǎw ráʔsǐi/ (hermit devoting his time to meditation)

พิษ /phít/ (poison)

- only occurs in a few words as an initial.

ส /s-/ /-t/

ส เสือ /sǎw sǎa/ (tiger)

also called ส ล from its resemblance to the letter ล.

โอกาส /ʔookàat/ (opportunity, occasion)

- สระ in initial position is usually read:

/sàʔr. . . / with the short inherent /-aʔ/

Ex: สระ /sàʔràʔ/ (vocalic, vowel)

/s-/ then ร is silent.

Ex: สระว่ายน้ำ /sàʔwâynáam/ (swimming-pool)

- in สระร, ร is usually read /-a-/ or /-an/, but it only occurs in a few words.
- when ส is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/ or /-o-/ is pronounced between the two letters (/sàʔ/), except with ฎ and ฏ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: สลัก /sàʔlâk/ (to carve)

สวน /sǔan/ (garden)

สวาม /sàʔwáʔyom/ (oneself; voluntarily)

สอง /sǔwǔŋ/ (two)

.....

ห /h-/

หีบ /hǔw hǐip/ (trunk, box)

never occurs in final position.

- this letter corresponds to a puff.

- ห is placed before eight G3 sonorants which do not have their equivalent in G2 to change their characteristics, therefore changing the tone of the syllable when required: ง, ญ, น, ม, ย, ร, ล and ว.

ห is then called ห นำ /hǎw nam/.

Ex: หนึ่ง /nǎŋ/ (one)
หมา /mǎa/ (dog)
แหวน /wǎEn/ (ring)
.....

- หร in initial position is usually read:

/hàʔr. . . / with the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/, but it only occurs in a few words.

- when ห is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, it is either:

ห นำ placed before one of the eight G3 sonorants given above.

หมี /mii/ (bear)
หมู /mǔu/ (pig)
หยุด /yùt/ (to stop)
หญ้า /yǎa/ (grass or low herb)
.....

OR:

ห หีบ used as the syllable initial directly followed by the final with the short inherent vowel /-o-/ pronounced between the two letters as in หก /hòk/ (six), but it is only found in a few words.

พ /l-/ /-n/

พ จุฬา /lɔɔ juʔ laa/ (star-shaped kite)

ลพ /láʔ khun/ (walking stick)

- this letter is now nearly obsolete.

อ /ʔ-/

อ อ่าง /ʔɔɔ ʔàaŋ/ (bucket)

never occurs in final position as a consonant.

- อ is a consonant in syllable-initial position. It is silent and is only used to carry the vocalic when a pure vocalic value is required, as vocalics never occur alone nor in syllable-initial position.

- อ is a vowel when in syllable-medial position.

- อ is a vowel or part of a compound vocalic when in syllable-final position.

- อร in initial position is usually read with the short inherent vowel /-aʔ/ between the two letters.

Ex: อร่อย /ʔàʔ rɔ̀ y/ (delicious)

- อธิ in initial position only occurs in a few words.

- when อ is directly followed by another consonant, in word-initial position, the short inherent vowel /-a?/ is usually pronounced between the two letters (/?à?/), except with ก and อ considered as diphthong and vowel.

Ex: อธิบาย /?à?thí?baay/ (to explain)
 อนึ่ง /?à?nəŋ/ (besides)
 อนุญาต /?à?nú?yâat/ (to allow)
 ออก /?wàk/ (to go out or away)

.....

- when อ occurs in front of the four following words, it is called อ นำ /?wam/ and changes the characteristics of ย.

อย่า /yâa/ (do not . . .)
 อยาก /yâak/ (to want to)
 อย่าง /yâaŋ/ (sort, kind)
 อยู่ /yùu/ (to stay, to live, to be at)

ฮ /h-/

ฮ นกฮูก /hoo nókhúuk/ (owl)

never occurs in syllable-final position.

- this letter only occurs in a few words in initial position.

8) THE SIX CONSONANT PHONETIC VALUES IN SYLLABLE-FINAL POSITION:

Eight consonant letters are never found in syllable-final position: န, မ, ဖ, ဟ, ဝ, ဂ, ဝ and ဟ. (when ဝ, ဂ and ဝ occur in final position, they are not considered as consonants).

Among the twenty-one consonant phones which exist in syllable-initial position, only six are found in syllable-final position: /-k/, /-p/, /-t/ or dead endings and /-m/, /-n/, /-ŋ/ or live endings.

DEAD endings			LIVE endings		
-K / -G	-P / -B	-T / -D	-N	-ŋ	-M
K- and KH-	P -and PH-	T- and TH-	N- န	ဂ	မ
န	ပ	တ	န		
ဟ	ပ	တ	Y- ဟ		
န	ဂ	တ	R- ဖ		
မ	F- ပ	တ	L- ဂ		
	B- ပ	တ	ဖ		
		တ			
		J- and CH-			
		ဂ			
		ဟ			
		န			
		S- တ			
		တ			
		ဟ			
		D- တ			
		တ			

CHAPTER 6

TWO SETS OF SPECIAL LETTERS.

In addition to vocalics and consonants there are four symbols which each represent a combination of a consonant and a vowel sound. They come from Sanskrit and appear in the consonant alphabet. They follow the same tone rules as G3 consonants.

ฤ : is the only one the student might ever encounter.

can have three different pronunciations depending on the word in which it

is met: /ri?/ as in อังกฤษ /ʔaŋkɹìt/ (English)

/rú?/ as in ฤฤ /rú?duu/ (season)

/rəə/ as in ฤฤษ /rəək/ (auspicious time)

occurs as the initial in a few words, as:

ฤฤ /rú?duu/ (season)

ฤฤษ /rú?sii/ (holy man)

occurs as the second component of G1 or G3 clusters or groupings:

ตฤท /trit/ (to set free)

มฤฑ /má?rú?tú?/ (to be soft, delicate)

occurs between ฃ and ฅ in the consonant alphabetical order.

ฤา : can only be pronounced /rau/.

is now very rarely used.

occurs between ฤ and ฅ in the alphabetical order.

ฃ and ฅ are practically obsolete nowadays.

CHAPTER 7

SPECIAL SYMBOLS

1) THE REPETITION SYMBOL: ๑ ยมก /yá?mók/

It is used to show that the previous word or group of words is to be repeated.
A space is to be left before and after ๑ .

Ex: ป่อย /bò y/ (often)
 ป่อย ๑ /bò ybò y/ (very often)

2) THE ABBREVIATION SYMBOL: ๑ พยานน้อย /phá?yaannóoy/

It is used to abbreviate long names.
A space is to be left before and after ๑ .

Ex: กรุงเทพฯ /krunthêep/ (Bangkok)
 กรุงเทพมหานคร /krunthêepprá?má?hăana?khwon/

3) THE "ETC. . ." SYMBOL: ๑๑๑ พยานใหญ่ /phá?yaanyà/

When spoken it is pronounced very short /lá?/.
A space is to be left before and after ๑๑๑ .

4) THE SILENCE SYMBOL: ๕ การ์รันต์ /kaaran/

It is often used above a word-final consonant when it is not pronounced.
Then the letter does not interfere in the tone of the syllable. This symbol is discussed in chapter "Silence with and without silence marker", chapter 14.

EXERCISE 1

This first exercise covers monosyllabic words pronounced in the middle tone to help the student concentrate on both vocalic and consonant alphabets, on the position of each vocalic, on the most common consonants used as live consonant-endings, and on the pronunciation of each letter.

1) METHOD:

- A) Transcribe the phonetic value of each word in the space provided, keeping the answers covered until you have completed the exercise.
- B) Read each word aloud, trying to exaggerate the length of short and long vowels.
- C) Cover up each word (left column) and find the right spelling with the help of the phonetics.

2) NOTES:

There are no intricate consonant combinations.

There are no inhereints.

Words are given in the dictionary alphabetical order.

3) ADVICE:

- A) Do not skip any part of the exercise as it is a perfect practice to recognize syllables and thus be able to apply the tone rules and separate words in sentences.
- B) Do not memorize word meanings at this stage, it would not help you now as you are working on writing, spelling and pronouncing words!

EXERCISE

กา	/.../	(kettle; crow)	/kaa/
เกา	/.../	(to scratch, to scrape with nails. . .)	/kao/
โกน	/..../	(to shave)	/koon/
ครู	/...../	(teacher)	/khruu/
คอย	/...../	(to wait)	/khoo-y/
คำ	/..../	(word, mouthful)	/kham/
คือ	/..../	(named, called)	/khuu/
คุณ	/..../	(when placed before a person's name this word shows additional respect)	/khun/
คุย	/..../	(to chat)	/khuy/
เคียง	/...../	(contiguous; near)	/khiang/
โคม	/...../	(lamp)	/khoom/
งอ	/.../	(to bend; bent, curved)	/ngoo/
งา	/.../	(sesame; ivory)	/ngaa/
งู	/.../	(snake)	/nguu/
เงิน	/.../	(money; silver)	/ngan/
จาน	/..../	(plate)	/jaan/
จีน	/..../	(chinese)	/jiin/
เจ็ญ	/.../	(defeated, finished, ruined)	/jen/
เจียว	/..../	(to fry out the fat)	/jiao/
ชวน	/...../	(to persuade, to influence)	/chuan/
ชัง	/..../	(to hate, to dislike)	/chan/
ชาว	/...../	(citizens or inhabitants of)	/chaa/
ชิม	/..../	(to taste, to try)	/chim/
เชิญ	/...../	(to bid courteously to come)	/choon/
ไข	/..../	(to drill, to pierce)	/chay/

	EXERCISE	ANSWER
ซึม	/.../ (to absorb; to be drowsy)	/sum/
เซ็ง	/.../ (tasteless)	/sen/
ฌาน	/...../ (contemplation, meditative absorption)	/chaan/
ญาณ	/...../ (supernatural power, higher degree of knowledge derived from meditation)	/yaan/
เนร	/...../ (novices in the Buddhist priesthood)	/neen/
ดอย	/.../ (to tie)	/ dooy/
ดูล	/.../ (pair of scales)	/dun/
เดือน	/.../ (month)	/duan/
แดง	/.../ (bright red)	/dEEŋ/
ใด	/.../ (who, whoever; any; what)	/day/
ตอน	/.../ (part; paragraph)	/toon/
ตัว	/.../ (body; classifier for animals.)	/tua/
เตือน	/.../ (to warn)	/tuan/
ทอง	/...../ (gold)	/thooŋ/
ทาย	/...../ (to predict)	/thaay/
ทำ	/.../ (to do, to make)	/tham/
เท	/.../ (to pour)	/thee/
เทียน	/...../ (candle)	/thian/
เธอ	/.../ (you, he -familiar-)	/thəə/
เนย	/.../ (butter)	/nəy/
เฉื่อย	/.../ (apathetic)	/nuay/
แนว	/.../ (line, row)	/nEEə/
บัว	/.../ (collective name for lotus and water lilies)	/bua/
แบน	/.../ (flat, even)	/bEEŋ/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

ใบ	/.../	(designatory particle for leaves, round hollow objects)	/bay/
ปู	/.../	(crab)	/puu/
ปี	/.../	(year)	/pii/
ไป	/.../	(to go)	/pay/
พอ	/..../	(enough; as soon as)	/phoo /
พัง	/..../	(to tumble down, to be in a ruinous condition)	/phan/
ฟัน	/.../	(tooth)	/fan/
ไฟ	/.../	(fire)	/fay/
ภัย	/..../	(danger)	/phay/
มวย	/..../	(act of boxing)	/muay/
มา	/.../	(to come)	/maa/
มี	/.../	(there is.. ; to have)	/mii/
มึน	/.../	(to be slightly dizzy)	/mun/
มือ	/.../	(hand)	/muu/
เมา	/.../	(drunk)	/mao/
ยาว	/..../	(long -in length-)	/yaa/
เรียน	/..../	(to learn, to study)	/rian/
เรือ	/.../	(boat)	/rua/
โรง	/..../	(shelter, habitation)	/roon/
		โรงเรียน	/roonrian/ (school)
ลอย	/..../	(to float)	/loy/
ลืม	/..../	(to forget; to open -eyes-)	/lum/
เลา ๆ	/... ... /	(approximately -roughly-)	/lao lao/
วัน	/.../	(day)	/wan/

EXERCISE			ANSWER
วาว	/.../	(bright, shining)	/waao/
เวร	/.../	(in turns, by shift)	/ween/
อวย	/.../	(to give, to grant)	/?uay/
ออม	/.../	(to save up)	/?oom/
เอา	/.../	(to want; ...)	/?ao/

EXERCISE part 2:

A) Find the group of each initial. Which group is missing ?

B) Look for all the short vowels, what do all syllables have in common ?

A) G2 is missing.
 B) Here all short vowels always occur in closed syllables with live consonant endings.
 This exercise shows that only a certain type of syllable can be pronounced in the middle tone, as explained in chapter 10

ANSWER

CHAPTER 8

CONSONANTS WITH TWO FUNCTIONS IN WORD-MEDIAL POSITION

(This chapter is still too intricate at this stage and should not be considered before studying chapter 12.)

1) GENERAL CASES:

In some cases a word-medial consonant is pronounced twice: first as the final of the preceding syllable and then as the initial of the following syllable pronounced with the inherent /-a?/.

Examples.

ธรรมดา	/thammá?daa/	(ordinary)
ปกติ	/pòkkà?tì?/	(normal)
ไม้จัตวา	/máyjàttà?waa/	(third tonal marker)
รัฐบาล	/rátthà?baan/	(government)
สัปดาห์	/sàppà?daa/	(week)
อพยพ	/?òpphá?yóp/	(to migrate)
อพยพเข้าเมือง	/?òpphá?yópkhâomuan/	(to immigrate)
.....		

* A dot has been placed below the consonant with two functions.

2) SPECIAL CASES:

As there are only six final consonant phones (/-k/, /-p/, /-t/ and /-m/, /-n/, /-ŋ/,), several consonants which have two functions in word-medial position are pronounced according to both their initial and final phonetic value.

Examples:

กิจวัตร	/kìtjà?wát/	(routine) Here ฐ is silent (see chapter 14).
เกษตรกรรม	/kà?sèettrà?koon/	(agriculture)

โฆษณา	/khôotsà?naa/	(advertisement, announcement; to advertise)
ผลไม้	/phǎnlá?máay/	(fruit)
มลรัฐ	/monlá?rát/	(state) as in สหรัฐ /sà?hà?rát/ (United States)
ศาสนา	/sàatsà?naa/	(religion)
.....		

3) REMARKS:

- a) ง, ญ, พ, ว and single ฐ are never found in medial position with the double function.
- b) The tone rules are applied just as if there were two letters.

CHAPTER 9

SYLLABLES

1) GENERALITIES:

As each syllable has its own pronunciation according to its spelling, it is most important to be able to divide words into syllables. This might sound rather difficult at first but soon becomes a reflex.

A) The initial is always a consonant.

B) A syllable is either

- open : ending in a vocalic phone
- or closed : ending in a consonant phone.

C) Open syllables with no written vocalic: the inherent /-a?/ or /- ɔɔ / is to be pronounced after the initial.

Closed syllables with no written vocalic : the inherent /-o-/ is to be pronounced between the two consonants.

D) A syllable is either dead or live.

Dead endings:

- dead consonant endings : /-k/, /-p/ and /-t/.
- dead vocalic endings : all short vowels.

Live endings:

- live consonant endings : /-m/, /-n/ and /-ŋ/.
- live vocalic endings : long vowels; diphthongs and triphthongs.

It is most important to make the distinction between live and dead syllables to be able to apply the tone rules.

2) PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION OF LIVE AND DEAD SYLLABLES:

Vocalic symbols do not always take the same position as their phones but consonants do.

DEAD SYLLABLES	LIVE SYLLABLES
a) consonant + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{inherent } /-a?/ \\ \text{short vowel} \end{array} \right\}$	e) consonant + long vocalic
b) consonant + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{inherent } /-o-/ \\ \text{short vowel} \end{array} \right\} \neq \text{DCE}$	f) consonant + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{inherent } /-o-/ \\ \text{short vowel} \end{array} \right\} + \text{LCE}$
c) C + LV + Dead Consonant Ending	g) C + LV + Live Consonant Ending

3) HOW TO SEPARATE SYLLABLES:

Although it is not always possible to tell where syllables end, there are several indications to bear in mind.

A) Upper and underscript symbols are only carried by initials:

Examples:

น้ำแข็ง	/nám khĕŋ/	(ice)
กลับบ้าน	/pay bâan/	(to go home)
สำคัญ	/sǎm khan/	(to be important)
.....		

Exceptions: When the initial is double all symbols are carried by the second consonant, (see chapter 12, page 97), as in:

ใกล้	/klây/	(to be near)
* เปล่า	/plàao/	(to be empty)
พรุ่งนี้	/phrûŋ nîi/	(tomorrow)
.....		

* See page 28 for the length of the vocalic phone.

B) Some vocalic letters have their own position in the syllable:

๖, ๗, ๘๐, ๘๑, ๘๒, ๘๓, are only found in closed syllables.

๘๔, ๘๕, ๘๖, ๘๗, ๘๘, ๘๙, ๙๐, ๙๑, ๙๒, ๙๓, ๙๔, ๙๕, ๙๖, ๙๗, ๙๘, ๙๙, ๑๐๐, ๑๐๑, ๑๐๒ are only found in open syllables.

C) All compound diphthong and triphthong letters are only found in open syllables except ๑๐๓ and ๑๐๔ which occur in both closed and open syllables.

Examples:

เมีย	/mia/ (wife)	เรียน	/rian/ (school)
เรือ	/rua/ (boat)	เพื่อน	/phûan/ (friend)

D) Eight consonants never occur in syllable-final position:

ณ, ณ, ณ, ห, ย, ว, อ and ฮ.

NOTE:

When ย, ว or อ are found in final position they are elements of compound vocalics (อ is also used as /-๖๖/).

E) Initials followed by an inherent:

/-a?/ : the initial never carries any tonal marker.

/-o-/ : the initial carries a tonal marker when required.

/-๖๖/ : the initial never carries any tonal marker.

EXERCISE 2

1) METHOD:

A) Transcribe the phonetic value of each word with the tones, on a paper, keeping the space provided for the exercise and the answers covered up.

Divide each word into syllables with the help of the preceding rules.

Fill in the space provided for the phonetic transcription, keeping the answers covered up. A gap has been left between each syllable to show clearly their characteristics: open or closed, live or dead vocalic ending, live or dead consonant ending.

B) Read each word aloud, trying to exaggerate the length of the short and long vowels.

C) Cover up each word (left column) and find its right spelling with the help of the phonetics. Whenever you do not know whether a consonant belongs to G2 or G3 leave a gap, finish writing the word and check the answer.

D) Give the type of syllable in the space specially provided.

2) NOTE:

A) There are no invariants, no consonant groupings.

B) Do not forget to look in chapter 5, paragraph 7, for the consonants which trouble you.

C) Most of the syllables are pronounced in the middle tone. When it is not the case, the tone is given (always placed above the first vocalic phonetic element of the syllable).

EXERCISE

ANSWER

กางเกง	/kaaŋ keeŋ/	/l l/	(trousers)		
กีฬา	/... .. /	/.. /	(sport)	/kii laa/	/l l/
เกะกะ	/.\. .\./	/.. /	(disorderly, in the way)	/kè? kà?/	/d d/
คำเชิญ	/.... . /	/.. /	(written invitation)	/kham chaaŋ/	/l l/
คุยกัน	/.... . /	/.. /	(to chat together)	/khuy kan/	/l l/
เงินเดือน	/.... . /	/.. /	(salary, wage)	/ŋə n dʌn/	/l l/
จำนวน	/.... . /	/.. /	(total, amount, quantity)	/jam nuan/	/l l/
โซดา	/... .. /	/.. /	(soda)	/soo daa/	/l l/
เดินทาง	/.... . /	/.. /	(to travel)	/dʌn thaan/	/l l/
ทำงาน	/.... . /	/.. /	(to work)	/tham ɲan/	/l l/
บังเอิญ	/... .. /	/.. /	(accidentally)	/baŋ ?een/	/l l/
แบบบาง	/.\. . . . /	/.. /	(frail, fragile)	/bEEp baan/	/d l/
โบราณ	/... .. /	/.. /	(ancient)	/boo raan/	/l l/
ประตู	/.\. . . . /	/.. /	(door)	/prà? tuu/	/d l/
ประมาณ	/.\. . . . /	/.. /	(about, approximatively)	/prà? maan/	/d l/
ปัญญา	/... .. /	/.. /	(reason, intelligence)	/pan yaa/	/l l/
เปรียบเทียบ	/.\. . . . ^ . . /	/.. /	(to compare)	/priap thiap/	/d d/
พอใจ	/.... . /	/.. /	(to be satisfied)	/phəw jay/	/l l/
มีธุระ	/... .. ^ . . /	/... /	(to be busy)	/mii thú? rá?/	/l d d/
ยืนยัน	/.... . /	/.. /	(to confirm)	/yuan yan/	/l l/
ราคา	/... .. /	/.. /	(price)	/raa khaa/	/l l/
โรงเรียน	/.... . /	/.. /	(school)	/roon rian/	/l l/
โรงแรม	/.... . /	/.. /	(hotel)	/roon rEEem/	/l l/
ลายมือ	/.... . /	/.. /	(hand-writing)	/laay mʌu/	/l l/
ลูกกุญแจ	/.\. /	/... /	(key)	/luuk kun jEE/	/d l l/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

ลุกเป็นไฟ	/... .. /	/... / (passionate; to burst into flames)	/lúk pen fay//d l l/
อะไร	/... .. /	/... / (what?)	/ʔàʔ ray/ /d l/
แอฟริกา	/... .. /	/... / (Africa)	/ʔEE fríʔ kaa//l d l/
โอกาส	/... .. /	/... / (opportunity, chance)	/ʔoo kàat/ /l d/

EXERCISE part 2:

- A) Compare phonetics of live and dead syllables. What do you notice ?
- B) What group of initial is missing ?
- C) To which group belongs the initial of dead syllables pronounced in the low tone ?

To which group belongs the initial of dead syllables pronounced in the high tone ?

To which group belongs the initial of dead syllables pronounced in the falling tone ?

- D) What difference is there between dead syllables pronounced in the high tone and the falling tone ?

ANSWER:

- A) No dead syllable is pronounced in the middle tone.
B) G2 is missing
C) G1
G3
G3

- D) Here dead syllables pronounced in the high tone are built up of:
G3 + SV + dead consonant-ending

Here dead syllables pronounced in the falling tone are built up of:
G3 + LV + dead consonant-ending

REMARK:

- B) As explained in the following chapter, when syllables have a G2 initial they are never pronounced in the middle tone.
A) C) D) are explained in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 10

THE FIVE TONES

1) GENERALITIES:

In spoken Thai tones are integral parts of words, giving them their unmistakable meaning.

Although there are four tonal markers, which do not always represent the same tone, none of them is necessary for a syllable to be pronounced in one of the five tones, as shown in the exercises considered in the previous chapter. Therefore when reading Thai, the reader must be fully aware of the three syllable characteristics given below, to give each syllable its correct tone.

A) The syllable-initial carries a tonal marker.

There are two things to consider:

- the class of the initial consonant (G1, G2 or G3).
- the tonal marker.

Remark: the length of the vocalic and the type of ending do not interfere.

B) The syllable initial does not carry any tonal marker.

There are two possibilities:

a) Open syllables: two things to consider.

- the class of the initial consonant.
- the length of the vocalic.

b) Closed syllables: two or three things to consider.

- the class of the initial consonant.
- the length of the vocalic, when the initial consonant belongs to G3 and the final phone is /-k/, /-p/ or /-t/ (dead consonant-ending).
- the type of consonant ending (live or dead).

2) THE FOUR TONAL MARKERS:

A) Their position:

They are written above the right side of the initial consonant of the syllable whose tone they mark.

When the syllable-initial is double the tonal marker is placed above the second consonant **EVEN THOUGH THE TONE IS GOVERNED BY THE FIRST CONSONANT.**

When the initial consonant already carries an superscript symbol the tonal marker is placed above it.

Tonal markers never occur above ห นำ and อ นำ.

B) Their name:

ˊ ไ้เอก	/máý?èek/
ˋ ไ้โท	/máýthoo/
ˋ ไ้ตรี	/máýtrii/
ˋ ไ้จัตวา	/máýjàttà?waa/

The last two tonal markers only occur with G1 initial consonants. They are very rare and mostly found in onomatopoeias, particles and recent loan-words.

C) Their value:

ˊ	above G1 or G2	:	low	tone
	above G3	:	falling	tone
ˋ	above G1 or G2	:	falling	tone
	above G3	:	high	tone
ˋ	above G1	:	high	tone
	above G2 or G3	:	NEVER OCCURS	
ˋ	above G1	:	rising	tone
	above G2 or G3	:	NEVER OCCURS	

3) THE 5 TONES WITHOUT TONAL MARKERS:

A) With G1 initials:

- live ending : middle tone
- dead ending : low tone

B) With G2 initials:

- live ending : rising tone
- dead ending : low tone

C) With G3 initials:

- live ending : middle tone
- dead ending :
 - Short Vowel alone or followed by a dead final-consonant : high tone.
 - Long Vocalic followed by a dead final-consonant : falling tone.

4) RECAPITULATIVE CHART: (the middle tone never occurs with tonal markers)

	A	B	C	D	LIVE syllables		DEAD syllables		
					E	F	G	H	I
INITIAL CONSONANT	¹ ไม้เอก /máý?èek/ ไม้โท /máythoo/ ไม้ตรี /máyttri/ ไม้จัตวา /máýjattà?waa/				LV (OS)	/-m/ /-n/ /-ŋ/ (CS)	SV or short Inherent (OS)	/-k/, /-p/ /-t/ (CS) SV LV	
G1	↘	∧	/	✓	—	—	↘	↘	↘
G2	↘	∧			✓	✓	↘	↘	↘
G3	∧	/			—	—	/	/	∧

5) CHART ILLUSTRATION:

G1 initials:

- A ไก่ /kàý/ (chicken)
- B บ้าน /bâan/ (house, home)

C	โต๊ะ	/tóʔ/	(table)
D	กล้า	/kǎa/	(to be bold, audacious)
E	ดี	/dii/	(alright, well, good)
F	กิน	/kin/	(to eat)
G	จะ	/jàʔ/	(will, shall)
H	เด็ก	/dèk/	(child)
I	ปาก	/pàak/	(mouth)

G2 initials.

A	ไข่	/khàʔ/	(egg)
B	ผึ้ง	/phûŋ/	(bee)
C			
D			
E	ฝา	/fǎa/	(lid, cover)
F	สูง	/sǔun/	(tall)
G	ผุ	/phùʔ/	(rotten)
H	หก	/hòk/	(six)
I	หีบ	/hiip/	(trunk, box)

G3 initials:

A	โซ่	/sóo/	(chain for animals)
B	แล้ว	/lĕEo/	(already, . . .)
C			
D			
E	เรือ	/rua/	(small boat)
F	นำ	/nam/	(to lead)
G	นะ	/náʔ/	(final particle often used for “please”)
H	เล็ก	/lék/	(little)
I	เมฆ	/méek/	(storm cloud)

6) SUBSTITUTES FOR THE TWO MISSING TONES WITH G2 AND G3 INITIALS:

A) With G2 initials:

As the **MIDDLE TONE** and the **HIGH TONE** do not exist with G2 initials the required consonant must be changed to its common equivalent in G3 when the syllable is to be pronounced in the middle or high tone.

B) With G3 initials:

a) As the **LOW TONE** and the **RISING TONE** do not exist with G3 initials, the required consonant must be changed to its common equivalent in G2 when the syllable is to be pronounced in the low or rising tone.

b) **BUT** the ten sonorants do not have their equivalent in G2, therefore ห is written before the initial to convert it and change the tone of the syllable when required.

ห is then called ห นำ /h^v nam/ and does not carry any symbol. All symbols are written above or under the true initial.

Eight sonorants are convertible: ง, ณ, น, ม, ย, ร, ล, ว.

Two sonorants are never converted: ญ, พ.

Examples:

หนึ่ง	/n ^h et/	(one)
หมา	/m ^h aa/	(dog)
หลอด	/l ^h o ^t /	(tube, pipe)

....

REMARK: (see pages 57 and 80)

อ นำ converts ย into a middle consonant in 4 monosyllabic words.

7) GENERAL REMARKS:

- The middle tone never occurs in dead syllables.
- As tonal markers are used to change the tone of the syllable, they do not occur when the latter is already pronounced in the required tone.

ไม้เอก (ˊ) is never used on G1 or G2 initials when the syllable is dead as it is already pronounced in the low tone.

ไม้เอก (ˊ) is never used on G3 initials when the syllable is dead with a long medial vocalic as it is already pronounced in the falling tone.

ไม้โท (ˋ) is never used on G3 initials when the syllable is dead with a short medial or final vowel as it is already pronounced in the high tone.

- As ห นำ changes the characteristics of eight sonorants when the syllable is to be pronounced in the **LOW** or **RISING TONE**, อ นำ converts ย to change the tone of the syllable in the four following monosyllabic words:

อย่า	/yaa/	(do not . . .)
อยาก	/yaaʔ/	(to want to)
อย่าง	/yaaŋ/	(kind of, sort of, category)
อยู่	/yuu/	(to live at, to be at, to stay at)

8) THE THREE CONSONANT GROUPS AND THE FOUR TONAL MARKERS:

G1) G1 + Live ending all markers are used (5 tones)

G1 + Dead ending all markers are used but ˊ (the low tone is automatically obtained in dead syllables with G1 initials)

G2) G2 + Live ending only two markers are used (3 tones; the middle and the low tone are missing)*

G2 + Dead ending the tonal markers are **RARE**

G3) G3 + Live ending only two markers are used (3 tones; the low and the rising tone are missing)*

G3 + Dead ending Short Vowels: ˊ occasionally occurs in particles (**RARE**)

Long Vocalics: all markers are **RARE**.

 ˊ occasionally occurs in recent English loanwords.

 with ˊ the vocalic is usually read short (**RARE**).

* **G2** : The two missing tones are obtained with G3 initial consonants when required

* **G3** : The two missing tones are obtained with ห ํ or อ ํ .

EXERCISE 3

1) METHOD:

A) Transcribe the phonetic value of each (monosyllabic) word, and its tone, in the space provided, with the help of the previous recapitulative chart, keeping the answers covered until you have completed the exercise.

B) Read each word aloud, trying to exaggerate the length of vocalics and the tones.

C) Cover up each word (left column) and find its right spelling with the help of the phonetics.

D) Cover up the phonetics and read each word aloud.

2) REMARKS:

- live syllables which do not carry any tonal marker are pronounced in:

the middle tone when the initial belongs to G1 or G3

the rising tone when the initial belongs to G2

- dead syllables which do not carry any tonal marker are pronounced in:

the low tone when the initial belongs to G1 or G2

the high tone or the falling tone when the initial belongs to G3.

EXERCISE

ANSWER

G1 initial of a live syllable:

กา	/.../	(kettle; crow)	/kaa/
กิน	/.../	(to eat)	/kin/
จาน	/.... /	(plate, dish; to mix with water)	/jaan/
เจียน	/.... /	(almost, very nearly; to trim)	/jian/
ใจ	/.../	(mind, feelings)	/jay/
ดี	/.../	(good, well)	/dii/
ใจดี	/..... /	(to be kind, good)	/jaydii/
ดีใจ	/..... /	(to be pleased, happy)	/diijay/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

เดิน	/.../	(to walk; in compound words it can mean “ to go by mechanical means ”)	/dɔɔn/
เบือน	/.../	(to turn -the face away-)	/buan/
ไป	/.../	(to go)	/pay/
อำ	/.../	(to conceal)	/ʔam/

G1 initial of a dead syllable:

กับ	/.../	(with, together; and)	/kàp/
เกาะ	/.../	(island)	/kəʔ/
จะ	/.../	(will, shall)	/jàʔ/
จืด	/.../	(fresh -as water-; tasteless; uninteresting)	/jùt/
ดิบ	/.../	(raw, unripe, half-cooked)	/dìp/
ตัด	/.../	(to cut, to severe)	/tət/
ตี	/.../	(putrid, rotten)	/tùʔ/
เปิด	/.../	(to open, to switch on)	/pəət/
บอก	/.../	(to tell)	/bòʔk/
เบาะ	/.../	(cushion)	/bəʔ/
อาบ	/.../	(to immerse)	/ʔàap/
อาบแดด	/... .. /	(to sunbathe)	/ʔàap dÈEt/

G2 initial of a live syllable:

เขียน	/... /	(to write)	/khǎn/
ขา	/... /	(leg)	/khǎa/
ฉัน	/... /	(I)	/chǎn/
ถือ	/... /	(to hold, to carry by hand; to believe in)	/thǎu/
ถุง	/... /	(bag, poach)	/thǎu/
ผอม	/... /	(to be thin, slim)	/phǎwm/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

ฝัน	/.../	(dream; to dream)	/fǎn/
สวย	/..../	(pretty)	/sǔay/
สิ่ว	/.../	(pimple)	/siu/
หิน	/.../	(stone)	/hǐn/
หัว	/.../	(head)	/hǔa/

G2 initial of a dead syllable:

ขวด	/...../	(bottle)	/khùat/
ขีด	/...../	(to draw, to make lines)	/khìit/
ฉับ	/..../	(urgent, requiring haste)	/chàp/
ถูก	/...../	(correct, right)	/thùuk/
เถอะ	/..../	(mild form of imperative when added to a verb)	/thəʔ/
ผัด	/..../	(to fry; to postpone)	/phàt/
ผิด	/..../	(wrong, mistaken)	/phìt/
ฝืด	/..../	(moving with difficulty)	/fùut/
เถี	/.../	(imperative word used to strengthen a statement)	/sìʔ/
สุด	/.../	(end, conclusion)	/sùt/
หัก	/..../	(to break)	/hàk/

G3 initial of a live syllable:

คอย	/...../	(to wait)	/khəy/
คุณ	/..../	(word used in front of names to show additional respect)	/khun/
ชาม	/...../	(bowl, dish)	/chaam/
ชี	/..../	(Buddhist nun)	/chii/
ทำ	/..../	(to do, to make)	/tham/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

เทียน	/...../	(candle)	/thian/
เธอ	/.... /	(you, he -familiar-)	/thəə/
พอ	/... /	(enough; as soon as)	/phəw/
ภัย	/.... /	(danger)	/phay/
ฟืน	/.... /	(firewood)	/faun/
เงิน	/... /	(money, silver)	/ŋən/
เนย	/.... /	(cheese)	/nəy/
เมีย	/... /	(wife)	/mia/
แมว	/.... /	(cat)	/mEə/
เย็น	/... /	(cool, cold)	/yen/
รวม	/.... /	(to collect or gather together; amount, quantity)	/ruam/
เร็ว	/... /	(quickly, speedily)	/reo/
ลอย	/.... /	(to float)	/ləy/
ไว	/... /	(prompt, agile)	/way/

G3 initial of a dead syllable WITH SHORT VOWEL:

เกอะ	/.... /	(awkward)	/khəʔ/
คิด	/.... /	(to think)	/khít/
เช็ด	/.... /	(to clean by wiping or rubbing)	/chét/
ทุก	/.... /	(each, every)	/thúk/
พิษ	/... /	(poison)	/pít/
จับ	/... /	(to seize with the teeth)	/ŋáp/
แะ	/... /	(to extract, to pick out)	/ŋÉʔ/
นะ	/... /	(final syllable equal to “please” in certain interrogative sentences)	/náʔ/
เมตร	/... /	(metre) Here ฃ is silent.	/mét/
เย็บ	/... /	(to sew, to stitch; to string together)	/yép/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

รุก	/.../	(to put or move forward)	/rúk/
ลึก	/.../	(deep)	/lák/
เล็ก	/.../	(little, small)	/lék/
วัด	/.../	(wat, temple)	/wát/

G3 initial of a dead syllable WITH LONG VOWELS; DIPTHONGS OR TRIPTHONGS:

ชอบ	/...../	(to like)	/chôwp/
ทอด	/...../	(to fry; to lay down something)	/thôwt/
พูด	/...../	(to speak)	/phûut/
ฟูก	/...../	(mattress)	/fûuk/
งีบ	/...../	(to take a nap)	/ŋûip/
แนบ	/...../	(to come closer to)	/nĕĕp/
มีด	/...../	(knife)	/mîit/
ยืด	/...../	(to stretch out; stretched, extended)	/yûut/
ราก	/...../	(foundations; roots)	/râak/
อุบ	/...../	(to touch affectionately)	/lûup/
วูบ	/...../	(to pass like a shot, to disappear instantly)	/wûup/

EXERCISE 4

1) NOTE:

Now you should be able to recognize dead and live syllables as well as G1, G2 and G3 initials at first sight. You should also know the entire alphabet by heart.

The following exercise is general. It gives monosyllabic and compound words in alphabetical order.

2) METHOD:

A) Transcribe the phonetic value of each word with the tones, on a paper, keeping the space provided for the exercise and the answers covered up.

Fill in the space provided for the phonetic transcription. As a first approach to the construction of compound words, a space has been left between the phonetics of each word.

B) Read each word aloud, trying to exaggerate the length of short and long vocalics, being aware of the tones.

C) Cover up the phonetics and read each word aloud after writing it at least twice.

3) REMARKS:

A) Inherent vowels, อ น้ำ and ห น้ำ have been introduced in this exercise. If you still have difficulties after thinking of each rule, check in the dictionary before looking at the answer as it is time to start using dictionaries!

B) It is also recommended to have at hand a copy of the tone chart if you do not have all the tones in mind.

C) Do not skip any of the procedure nor words to work on as it is a perfect practice to read and pronounce Thai quickly.

EXERCISE			ANSWER
กรุงเทพ	/...../	(Bangkok)	/krunthêep/
ข้างบน	/......./	(upstairs)	/khâaŋ bon/
ข้างล่าง	/......./	(downstairs)	/khâaŋ láaŋ/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

ข้างหลัง	/......./	(behind)	/khâaŋ lǎŋ/
ขี่ม้า	/......./	(horse riding)	/khii máa/
เข็มขัด	/......./	(belt)	/khěm khàt/
เขียวอ่อน	/......./	(light green)	/khiao ?wǎn/
คนเกียจ	/......./	(lazy person)	/khon kiàt/
คนเดียว	/......./	(one person only)	/khon diao/
ง่าย	/...../	(to be easy)	/ŋāay/
แง้ม	/...../	(to be ajar, slightly open)	/ŋÉEm/
จดหมาย	/...../	(letter -mail-)	/jòt mǎay/
จิ้งจก	/...../	(small house lizard)	/jìŋjòk/
ฉาบฉวย	/......./	(-to act- rapidly, without concentration)	/chàapchǎay/
เช็ดโต๊ะ	/......./	(to wipe a table)	/chéet tò?/
ซื้อเนื้อ	/...../	(to buy meat)	/súu núu/
ฐานะ	/......./	(status, position)	/thāaná?/
เดี๋ยว ๆ	/......./	(hold on!)	/díao díao/
ตกลง	/...../	(OK; to agree)	/tòklon/
ตั๋วไปและกลับ	/...../	(return ticket)	/tǔa pay IÉ? klàp/
โต๊ะใหญ่	/...../	(big table)	/tó? yà/
ถึงสี่แยก	/......./	(to reach an intersection)	/thǎŋ sìyÊEk/
ทะลึ่ง	/...../	(to be impudent; to act boisterously)	/thá?lǎŋ/
ทางขวา	/......./	(to the right)	/thaan khwǎa/
ทางซ้าย	/......./	(to the left)	/thaan sáy/
ทางบก	/......./	(on the ground)	/thaan bòk/
ทางออก	/......./	(exit)	/thaan ?wǎ k/
ทำให้ง่าย	/......./	(to facilitate)	/tham hây ŋāay/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

ทำให้สะดวก	/....../	(to facilitate)	/tham hây sà?duak/
ธนาคาร	/...../	(bank -money-)	/thá?naakhaan/
*น้ำ	/..../	(water)	/náam/
น้ำแข็ง	/...../	(ice)	/nám khĕŋ/
น้ำตา	/...../	(tears)	/nám taa/
น้ำตาล	/...../	(sugar)	/nám taan/
น้ำมัน	/...../	(oil)	/nám man/
แม่น้ำ	/...../	(river)	/mĕĕ náam/
ว่ายน้ำ	/...../	(to swim)	/wâay náam/
ห้องน้ำ	/...../	(toilets, washroom)	/h ôŋ náam/

.....

*See chapter 4, 3A on pages 27 and 28.

เป็นหวัด	/...../	(to have a cold)	/pen wát/
เปิดน้ำ	/...../	(to turn on the water)	/pòt náam/
ผ้าเช็ดหน้า	/...../	(handkerchief)	/phâa chét nâa/
ผู้ขาย	/...../	(vendor, sales person)	/phûu khăay/
ผู้ชาย	/...../	(man)	/phûu chaay/
ผู้ใหญ่	/...../	(adult)	/phûu yâay/
ฝนตก	/...../	(to rain)	/fôn tòk/
พวกเรา	/...../	(our group, us, we)	/phûak rao/
พี่สาว	/...../	(elder sister)	/phîi sǎao/
พูดภาษาอังกฤษ	/...../	(to speak English)	/phûut phaasǎa ?anjkrít/
มาเยี่ยมเพื่อน	/...../	(to come and visit friends)	/maa yîam phĕn/
มีธุระ	/...../	(to be busy)	/mii thú?rá?/
มีเมฆ	/...../	(cloudy)	/mii mĕek/
เมาเหล้า	/...../	(to be drunk)	/mao lǎo/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

ยากนิดหน่อย	/.... /	(a little difficult)	/yâak nítnòy/
ร้านอาหาร	/.... /	(restaurant)	/ráan ?aahǎan/
เรียนขึ้นใจ	/.... /	(to learn by heart)	/rian khûn jay/
เรื่อย ๆ	/... ... /	(so so)	/rûay rûay/
เรื่องอ่านเล่น	/.... /	(novel)	/rûaŋ ?àan lèn/
โรงฆ่าสัตว์	/.... /	(slaughter house)	/rooŋ khâa sàt/
โรงเรียน	/.... /	(school)	/rooŋ rian/
ลักษณะ	/..... /	(characteristics, quality)	/láksà?ná?/
ลายมือชื่อ	/.... ... /	(signature)	/laay muu chûn/
เลือดออก	/.... /	(to bleed)	/lûat ?wòk/
วิ่งหนี	/... ... /	(to run away)	/wîŋ nîi/
เวลาว่าง	/..... /	(free time)	/weelaa wâaŋ/
สถานีรถเมล์	/..... /	(bus station)	/sà?thǎanii rót mee/
สัญญา	/..... /	(to promise)	/sǎnyaa/
ลักษณะ	/..... /	(shape, figure)	/sǎnthǎan/
หกสิบ	/... ... /	(sixty)	/hòk sîp/
หมอตา	/... ... /	(oculist)	/mǎw taa/
หมอฟัน	/... ... /	(dentist)	/mǎw fan/
หิ้งติดฝา	/... ... /	(shelves attached to the wall)	/hîŋ tít fǎa/
เหงื่อออก	/... /	SEE เลือดออก for construction (to perspire)	/ŋuà ?wòk/
เหลวไหล	/... ... /	(unreliable -conversation-)	/lò? IÈ?/
ใหญ่โต	/... ... /	(enormous)	/yà y too/
อนุญาต	/..... /	(to allow, to grant)	/?à?nú?yâat/
อเมริกา	/..... /	(America)	/?à?meerí?kaa/
อย่า	/... /	(do not !)	/yàa/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

อยาก	/.... /	(to want to)	/yàak/
ออก	/.... /	(to leave, to go out)	/ʔwàk/
อักษร	/..... /	(letter -alphabet-)	/ʔàksǎn/
โอกาส	/..... /	(opportunity, chance)	/ʔookàat/
.			
.....			

CHAPTER 11

WHAT TO KNOW AND REMEMBER

ABOUT ฦ

WHEN NOT IN INITIAL POSITION

1) IN FINAL POSITION:

A) ฦ is read /-n/ when in syllable-final position and when preceded by a written vocalic.

Example:

อาหาร /ʔaah^vaan/ (food)

REMARK:

ฦ in word-medial position can be a final or an initial, read /-n/ or /ráʔ/ but cannot have both functions, except in a few exceptions.

Examples:

มารดา /maandaa/ (mother)

วารสาร /waaráʔs^vaan/ (magazine)

สารบัญ /s^váaráʔbaan/ (table of contents, index)

Exception:

เจรจา /jeenráʔj^vaa/ (to negotiate)

B) ฦ is read /- วรรณ / when in final position in a syllable in which no written vocalic occurs.

Example:

นคร /náʔkh^vวรรณ/ (city)

2) SILENT BEHIND ฦ, ศ or ส.

A) The combination ฦร is often read /s-/.

Examples:

ทราบ /s^háap/ (to know)

ทราย	/saay/	(sand)
ทรุด	/sút/	(to shrink, to subside)
.....		

B) In the combination ศร, ร is often silent, /S-/.

Examples:

ศรัทธา	/sàtthaa/	(faith, belief)
ศรัย	/sáy/	(shelter, refuge)
ศราทธ	/sàat/	(obedient, trusting)
.....		

C) In the combination สร, ร is often silent, /S-/.

Examples:

สระว่ายน้ำ	/sà?wâaynáam/	(swimming-pool)
สร้าง	/sâan/	(to build, to create)
เสร็จ	/sèt/	(finished, accomplished)
เสรี	/səət/	(to escape; quick, alert)
.....		

D) Remark:

When finding one of these three combinations in a new word, it is highly recommended to check the pronunciation in a dictionary as the inherent /-a?/, or /- ะ /, is pronounced between the two consonants in some words.

Examples:

ทรมาน	/th ะ rá?maan/	(to subdue by punishing, tormenting)
สระ	/sà?rà?/	(vowel, vocalic)
สรีระ	/sà?riirá?/	(body)
สรุป	/sà?rùp/	(to summarize)
.....		

E) Exception:

The following word is to be memorized as it is the only word with silent ร

behind จ.

จริง /jin/ (to be true)

3) DOUBLE ร USED AS VOCALIC OR VOCALIC + CONSONANT:

A) Used as vocalic: /-a-/

When รร occurs in syllable-medial position, it is used in place of the short vowel ะ – ไม่เห็นอากาศ /máyhǎn?aakàat/.

Example:

ธรรมดา /thammá?daa/ (ordinary)

B) Used as vocalic + consonant: /-an/

When รร occurs in syllable-final position, it is pronounced /-an/.

Example:

บรรดา /bandaa/ (every, all, everyone)

C) Remarks:

a) เอกอัครราชทูต /?èek?àkrá?ráatchá?thùut/ (ambassador)

Here รร does not occur as a double consonant. The first of the two letters is an initial followed by the inherent /-a?/, the second letter is the initial of the following syllable.

b) When รร occurs in word-medial position, it can have both functions (final of one syllable and initial of the following), but it is rare.

Example:

ภรรยา /phanrá?yaa/ (wife)

c) รร is often referred to as ร หั้น /rɔɔ hǎn/ when orally spelling a word.

EXERCISE 5

1) NOTE:

This exercise introduces the new rules given in paragraphs 1 and 3.

2) METHOD:

Idem as EXERCISE 1.

After finding the right spelling of each Thai word, practice writing by copying them at least twice each.

EXERCISE		ANSWER
กรรมกร	/...../ (labour workers)	/kammá?kəw n/
กรรมการ	/...../ (director)	/kammá?kaan/
การ	/..../ (task, action -used to form lots of words-)	/kaan/
การประกาศ	/...../ (announcement, notice)	/kaanprà?kàat/
ขากรรไกร	/...../ (jaw)	/khǎakankray/
คณะกรรมการ	/...../ (committee)	/khá?ná?kammá?kaan/
คนโดยสาร	/...../ (passenger)	/khondooysǎan/
ถาวร	/...../ (to be strong, stable, permanent)	/thǎawəw n/
ทหาร	/...../ (soldier)	/thá?hǎan/
ธนาคาร	/...../ (bank -money-)	/thá?naakhāan/
ธรรม	/..../ (the law of nature, duty, virtue Dharma-Buddhist teaching)	/tham/
บรรจุ	/...../ (to insert, to put into)	/banjù?/
บรรดา	/...../ (every, all, everyone)	/bandaa/
บรรเทา	/...../ (to improve the condition in case of sickness or distress)	/banthao/
พรรค	/..../ (class, set, group, multitude)	/phák/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

ภรรยา	/...../	(husband -formal-)	/phandaa/
ภัตตาคาร	/..... /	(restaurant -formal-)	/pháttaakhaan/
มารยาท	/...../	(conduct, behaviour)	/manyâat/
มารดา	/...../	(mother)	/maandaa/
รถบรรทุก	/...../	(truck)	/rótbanthúk/
ละคร	/...../	(staged play)	/lá?khǎn/
สงสาร	/...../	(to manifest compassion or sympathy)	/sǎnsǎan/
สมควร	/...../	(to be suitable, proper)	/sǎmkhuan/
สรรพคุณ	/...../	(qualities)	/sǎppá?khun/
*สวรรค์	/...../	(heaven, paradise)	/sǎ?wǎn/
สโมสร	/...../	(association, society, club)	/sǎ?moosǎn/
อักษร	/...../	(letter -alphabet-)	/?ǎksǎn/
.....			

* See chapter 13 for the irregularity of the tone in the second syllable.

CHAPTER 12

CONSONANT CLUSTERS & GROUPINGS

(Chapter 4 should be studied at this stage)

1) GENERAL RULES:

A) Three types:

- Type 1 : true clusters /kr-/ , /kl-/ , /pr-/
as in กว้าง /kwâaŋ/ (wide, broad)
- Type 2 : consonant groupings pronounced as single consonants
as in ทรานต์ /sâan/ (exhausted)
- Type 3 : consonant groupings with one of the three inherent vowels pronounced between the two letters
as in อร่อย /ʔàʔrɔ̌y/ (tasty, good)

B) Tone of the syllable:

- Type 1 & Type 2 : the tone is given by the first consonant even though all elements are carried by the second (always a sonorant).
- Type 3 : when the word is disyllabic, with the inherent /-aʔ/ pronounced in the first syllable and the second consonant is a sonorant, the tone of the second syllable is given by the first initial. (See examples with asterisk on page 17).

See examples given above.

C) Position of compounds and other elements:

All elements are written as if there was only one consonant:

- predisposed symbols occur in front of the grouping or cluster.
- upperscript and underscript symbols occur above and under the

SECOND consonant.

- Type 1 :เปล่า /plàao/ (empty; no)

Type 2 : สร้อยคอ /sʰwǐykhɔɔ/ (necklace)

Type 3 : เสมอ /sàʔmǎʔ / (always)

2) REMARKS ON THE FIVE PREDISPOSED VOCALICS WHEN THEY PRECEDE AT LEAST TWO CONSONANTS:

REMARKS	SPELLING	PRONUNCIATION	
normal pattern	PV + C + C แซ่่ง	C + PV + C /khÊŋ/ (shin)	a
	PV + C + C... โทรศัพท์	C + PV + C... /thooráʔsàp/ (telephone)	
TYPE 1 (true cluster)	PV + C + C ใคร	C + C + PV /khray/ (who?; whoever)	b
	PV + C + C + C โคลน	C + C + PV + C /khloon/ (mud)	
TYPE 2 (double initial pronounced as single)	PV + C + C + C เสร็จ	C + PV + C /sèt/ (to be accomplished)	c
	PV + C + C + C... เศรษฐกิจ	C + PV + C... /sèttàʔkít/ (economy)	
TYPE 3 (inherent /-aʔ/ pronounced between the first two consonants)	PV + C + C โหล่น	C + INHERENT /-aʔ/ + C + PV /chàʔnǎy/ (an oboe)	d
	PV + C + C... แขนง	C + INHERENT /-aʔ/ + C + PV + C /khàʔnĒÊŋ/ (twig)	

* A dot has been placed below the initial (single or double)

Apart from knowing the pronunciation, there is no general rule giving the type of syllable to which the juxtaposed consonants belong when none carries a tonal marker.

* เกษตร	/kà?sèet/	(land)	BUT	เกสร	/keesǎw n/	(pollen)
แห่ง	/ŋĒE/	(little, young)	BUT	แห่ง	/hĒŋ/	(place, spot)
แพน	/nĒE/	(vegetable scum growing on stagnant water)	BUT	แพน	/hĒEn/	(to care for)

* Here ण is silent (See chapter 14)

A) First consonant:

The first consonant of the cluster can be	ဂ, ဃ or က
	တ
	ည, မှ or ဖ

The second consonant of the cluster can be one of the three following sonorants: r , ɺ or w .

๓ is only found with ๕.

A) The initial grouping is pronounced as a single consonant: /s-/

Combinations : ทร, ศร, and สร.

ທຣ is usually pronounced /tɕr.../ or /s-/

ศร is usually pronounced /sàʔr . . ./ or /s-/

สระ is usually pronounced /sà?r.../ or /s-/

Examples of the three combinations pronounced /s-/ :

กระทรวง	/krà?suən/	(ministry -of government-)
ทรง	/son/	(form, shape, figure)
ทราบ	/sâap/	(to know)
ทรุด	/sút/	(to shrink, to subside)
แทรก	/sÊEk/	(to squeeze through)
ประเสริฐ	/prà?sòot/	(to be precious, esteemed)
เศรษฐกิจ	/sèettà?kít/	(economy)
ส่งเสริม	/sòŋsǎm/	(to encourage)
สร้อยคอ	/sǎwkyhwa/	(necklace)
* สระ	/sà?/	(pond; to cleanse, rinse)
สร้าง	/sàan/	(to decrease, to vanish progressively)

....

* This word is an homograph of สระ /sà?rà?/ (vowel, vocalic)

B) The initial is preceded by ห นำ or อ นำ

See pages 79 and 80.

5) GENERAL REMARK:

Any other combination automatically belongs to type 3, with an inherent pronounced between the two consonants.

Examples:

ชนิด	/chá?nít/	(kind, sort)
ทหาร	/thá?hǎan/	(soldier)
ปฏิทิน	/pà?tì?thin/	(calendar)
พยายาม	/phá?yaayaam/	(to try)

....

6) TYPE 3:

A) The two consonants belong to the same syllable:

When the two consonants belong to the same syllable, the first letter is the initial of the syllable and the second is the final. Then the inherent /-o-/ is pronounced between them.

The initial carries a tonal marker when required.

Examples: see page 18.

As shown in these examples, most words built up of two consonants only are monosyllabic words pronounced with the inherent /-o-/.

More examples:

ขบ	/khòp/	(frog)
ขน	/khǒn/	(feathers: body hair)
ขม	/khǒm/	(bitter)
ต้นไม้	/tôn/	(trunk of trees; classifier for trees, plants. . .)
ผล	/phǒn/	(product, result)
รส	/rót/	(taste, flavour)
ลง	/loŋ/	(to descend, decrease)
ล้ม	/lóm/	(to stumble, to fall over)
ส่ง	/sòŋ/	(to send, to take, to deliver)

.....

B) the two consonants are both initials.

When both consonants are initials the inherent /-a?/, or sometimes /-ɔɔ/, is pronounced after the first consonant (see examples given on pages 17 and 19).

No tonal marker is carried by the syllable initial pronounced with the inherent /-a?/ or /- ɔɔ /.

More examples:

The underscript dot indicates an initial carrying an inherent.

* กรุณา	/kà?rú?naa/	(please)
ขวาง	/chà?wǎaŋ/	(to obstruct by placing something crosswise)
ชัด	/thà?nàt/	(clearly, distinctly; apt, clever)
ธนบัตร	/thá?ná?bàt/	(banknote) Here ฐ is silent (See chapter 14)
ผนึก	/phà?nèk/	(to seal, to close up)
สงวน	/sà?ŋǎan/	(to keep safely, to be careful of)
สถานี	/sà?thǎanii/	(station; central office or headquarters)

....

REMARKS:

* a) As shown in this example some combinations specific to type 1 are also found with type 3 in some cases.

More examples:

กรณี	/kà?rá?nii/	(duty , obligation)
ครหา	/khá?rá?hǎa/	(to defame; defamation)
ปริยาย	/pà?rí?yaay/	(way, manner)
ปลัด	/pà?làt/	(assistant)
พรุส	/phà?rú?sà?/	(rough, unkind)
* ผลิต	/phà?lìt/	(to produce fruits.)
พวา	/phà?wǎa/	(to be frightened)
พลังงาน	/phá?lanŋaan/	(energy)

....

* b) Another type of combination:

G1 or G2 + inherent /-a?/ + sonorant +

The tone of the second syllable is given by G1 or G2 in disyllabic words.

Example: (see next chapter for more examples)

ขวาง /khà?nǎaŋ/ (to doubt, to suspect)

C) Some words are only built up of consonants:

It is not always easy to read words when no written vocalic occurs,

Examples:

*ขนม	/khà?nǒm/	(cake, cereal food)
ถนน	/thà?nǒn/	(street)
ทลบบม	/thonlá?bom/	(to spray; to apply with a brush; to rub gently)
มรกต	/morrá?kòt/	(emerald)
มหรสพ	/má?hǎwrá?sòp/	(entertainment)
สกปรก	/sòkkà?pròk/	(dirty)

.....

BUT : (example)

* Knowing that the combination **ขนม** cannot be **TYPE 1** nor **TYPE 2** it has to be **TYPE 3**, with **ข** followed by an inherent.

The combination **นม** cannot be **TYPE 1** nor **TYPE 2** either, therefore **น** will be followed by an inherent.

As **/-a?/** is hardly found at the end of a word (as an inherent) and as **/-vv/** mainly occurs at the beginning of words (**ร** being the second consonant) the inherent **/-o-/** is to be pronounced between **น** and **ม**.

CHAPTER 13

IRREGULAR TONES

(Chapter 8 should be studied at this stage)

1) TYPE 3 :

A) General rule:

As a general rule disyllabic words built up as follows have their second syllable pronounced according to the tone rules of the first consonant (see chapter 12 paragraph 1B, page 97).

$$\underbrace{\text{G1 or G2 + I } /-a?/}_{\text{ }} + \underbrace{\text{Sonorant +}}_{\text{ }}$$

Examples with G1 initials:

จมูก	/jà?mùuk/	(nose)
ตลก	/tà?lòk/	(amusing, humorous)
ตลอด	/tà?lòt/	(all through, througout)
ตลาด	/tà?làat/	(market place)
องุ่น	/ʔà?ṇùn/	(grape)
อร่อย	/ʔà?r ỳ/	(tasty, good)

.....

Examples with G2 initials:

ขนม	/khà?nǎm/	(biscuit, cereal food)
ขนาด	/khà?nàat/	(size)
ขยัน	/khà?yǎn/	(diligent)
เขมร	/khà?mǎen/	(Kmer, Cambodian)
เขย่า	/khà?yào/	(to shake, to swing)
ฉลาด	/chà?làat/	(clever)
เฉลี่ย	/chà?lǎa/	(average)
ถนน	/thà?nǎn/	(street)

ถนัด	/thà?nàt/	(clearly-distinctly)
ถลา	/thà?lǎa/	(to stumble)
แถลง	/thà?lěEŋ/	(to relate, to tell -formal-)
ผนัง	/phà?nǎŋ/	(interior walls)
ฝรั่ง	/fà?ràn/	(white race of people)
สงบ	/sà?ŋòp/	(peace)
สนาม	/sà?nǎam/	(open field)
สนิม	/sà?nim/	(rust)
สมอง	/sà?mว้ŋ/	(brain)
* สมัคร	/sà?màk/	(to volunteer, to join willingly)
สมัย	/sà?mǎy/	(era, age)
* สมุทร	/sà?mùt/	(sea; marine -adj.-)
เสมอ	/sà?mอ้อ/	(always)
.....		

* ร is silent. See chapter 14.

B) Exceptions and particularities:

a) A few words just do not undergo the basic rule, but it is RARE :

Example :

สมัคร	/sà?mát/	(meeting, assembly)
.....		

b) A few words built up of more than two syllables undergo the basic rule:

Examples:

ถนอมสรว้อย	/thà?nimsว้y/	(delicate, frail -as children-)
ถ่มึงทิ้ง	/thà?mŋthŋ/	(fierce, violent -attitude, disposition-)
สมุฏฐาน	/sà?mùthǎn/	(cause, origin)
.....		

c) Lots of compound words include disyllabic words:

Examples:

ขนมกง	/khà?nǒmkon/	(sweet meat made of peanut flour mixed with sugar)
ขนมปัง	/khà?nǒmpaŋ/	(bread)
ขนาดกลาง	/khà?nàatklaaŋ/	(medium size)
ขนาดเล็ก	/khà?nàatlék/	(small size)
ถึงขนาด	/thǎŋkhà?nàat/	(right size)
นอกขนาด	/nǒwkkhà?nàat/	(oversized, too big)
ฝรั่งเศส	/fà?ràŋsèt/	(French)
สนามกีฬา	/sà?nǎamkiilaa/	(stadium)
สนามบิน	/sà?nǎambin/	(airport)
สนามหญ้า	/sà?nǎamyǎa/	(lawn, plot of grass)
สมุทรเดียว	/sà?mùtdian/	(seashore)
ท้องสมุทร	/thǒwŋsà?mùt/	(the bosom of the sea)
มหาสมุทร	/mǎ?hǎasà?mùt/	(ocean)

.....

C) Remarks:

a) As a general rule, in disyllabic words which undergo the basic rule given above (paragraph 1A), the normally predisposed elements occur in front of the consonant grouping.

Examples:

เสมอ	/sà?mǎo/	(always)
แสวง	/sà?wǎEŋ/	(to seek, to search)
โสร่ง	/sà?ròŋ/	(sarong)

.....

b) As a general rule, in disyllabic words which **DO NOT** undergo the basic rule given above (paragraph 1A), the normally predisposed elements occur in front of the **SONORANT** as in the normal syllable construction.

Examples:

ขโมย	/khà?mooy/	(thief)
สโมสร	/sà?mooswà n/	(association, club)
.....		

There are a few exceptions still, as in:

เฉพาะ	/chà?p'wà/	(especially)
.....		

2) SOME OTHER DISYLLABIC WORDS:

In some disyllabic words, when the first syllable has a G1 or G2 initial and the second is dead with a G3 initial, the tone of the second syllable depends on G1 or G2.

Examples:

ตำรวจ	/tamrùat/	(police)
ประมาท	/prà?màat/	(careless, negligent)
ประโยค	/prà?yòok/	(sentence -grammar-)
ประโยชน์	/prà?yòot/	(utility, advantage)
ประวัติ	/prà?wàt/	(biography, record). ิ is silent.

See 14 (2C, 3B)

ประวัติศาสตร์	/prà?wàttì?sàat/	(History as a subject)
สำรวจ	/sām'rùat/	(to make an inventory)
สำเร็จ	/sām'rèt/	(to be accomplished, completed)
.....		

REMARKS:

These words demand special attention as their tones are incorrectly given in Thai-English dictionaries.

Many recent loanwords from English have irregular tonal markers or irregular tones.

EXERCISE 6

This exercise illustrates chapters 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

1) METHOD:

A) Transcribe the phonetic value of each word, with the tones, in the space provided, keeping the answers covered until you have completed the exercise. If you have real difficulties check in the dictionary.

B) Give the type of consonant groupings on a separate paper.

Examples: (see the glossary on the following page)

ปรับปรุง	/pràpprun/	/T1 + T1/	(to improve)
ไปรษณีย์	/praysà'nii/	/T1 b + T3* + S/	(post-office)
มหรสป	/má'hwá rá'sòp/	/T3* + T3* + T3* + T3@/	(festival)
เศร้าโศก	/sâosòok/	/T2c + Sa/	(sad, depressed)
หมด	/mòt/	/T2 - T3/	(finished; all, entire)

.....

C) After correction of your answers read each phonetic transcription aloud several times.

D) Cover up the Thai words and find their correct spelling, with the help of the phonetics, and the type of consonant groupings, keeping the answers covered until you have completed the exercise.

E) Cover up the phonetics and read each word aloud after writing it at least twice.

2) REMARKS:

A) Take chapter 9 and reread paragraph 3 carefully, page 69.

B) Keep a list of the permissible consonant combinations per type of grouping. (chapter 12, paragraphs 3 to 6).

C) Keep a copy of the chart given in paragraph 2, page 98.

3) GLOSSARY:

S = any open or closed syllable with written vocalic including **ร** read /-a-/ or /-an/ and **ว** read /-อน/.

Sa = any open or closed syllable with the written vocalic (or part of it) placed before the initial, as shown in paragraph 2. (a), page 98.

Example: **แจ้ง**.

T1 = Type 1 Chapter 12 (1A and 3), pages 97 and 99

T2 = Type 2 Chapter 12 (1A and 4), pages 97 and 99

T3 = Type 3 Chapter 12 (1A and 6), pages 97 and 102

T3* = first syllable: C + inherent /-a?/ or /-อน/

T3@ = first syllable: C + inherent /-o-/ + C

T1b = Type 1 when the written vocalic (or part of it) occurs before the consonant cluster, as shown in paragraph 2, page 98.

Examples: **ใคร, โคลน**

T2c = Type 2 when the written vocalic (or part of it) occurs before the consonant grouping, as shown in paragraph 2, page 98.

Example: **เศร้า**

T3d = Type 3 when the inherent /-a?/ is pronounced between the first two consonants and a predisposed vocalic pronounced in the second syllable is written before the word consonant initial, as shown in paragraph 2.

Examples: **ไลน์, แขนง**

T1-T3= combination of T1 and T3@

Examples: **กลบ** /klòp/ (to cover up)

ตรง /troŋ/ (straight)

T2-T3= combination of T2 and T3@

Examples: **เศร้า** /sâo/ (sad)

หมด /mòt/ (finished; entire)

EXERCISE

ANSWER

กรกฎาคม	/...../	(July)	/kà?rá?kà?daakhom/ /T3*+T3*+T3*+S+T3@/
กรง	/..../	(cage)	/kron/ /T1-T3/
กระเป๋าถือ	/...../	(handbag)	/krà?pǎothǎu/ /T1+Sa+S/
กล้วย	/...../	(banana)	/klûay/ /T1/
กว่า	/..../	(more than)	/kwàa/ /T1/
เกลือ	/..../	(salt)	/klua/ /T1b/
โกรธ	/...../	(angry)	/kròot/ /T1b/
โกลาหล	/...../	(excitement)	/koolaahǎn/ /Sa+S+T3@/
ใกล้	/..../	(near, close to)	/klây/ /T1b/
ไกล	/..../	(far)	/klay/ /T1b/
ขนาง	/...../	(to suspect)	/khà?nǎan/ /T3*+S/
ขนาด	/...../	(size)	/khà?nàat/ /T3*+S/
ขณะ	/...../	(moment)	/khà?nà?/ /T3*+S/
ขรม	/...../	(noisy)	/khrǒm/ /T1-T3/
ขวา	/...../	(right side)	/khwǎa/ /T1/
เขว	/...../	(awry)	/khwěe/ /T1b/
แหม่ว	/...../	(to reduce)	/khà?mĒEo/ /T3d/
โหลก	/...../	(to pound)	/khlòok/ /T1b/
โขยง	/...../	(group of people)	/khà?yǒon/ /T3d/
ครบบริบูรณ์	/...../	(entirely)	/khrópboon rí?bun/ /T1-T3+T3*+S+S/
ครอบครัว	/...../	(family)	/khrǒw pkhrua/ /T1+T1/
ครั้งแรก	/...../	(first time)	/khráŋrĒEK/ /T1+Sa/
ครึ่ง	/..../	(before a noun: "half"; after a noun: "one and a half")	/khrûn/ /T1/
ควัน	/...../	(smoke)	/khwān/ /T1/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

เครื่อง	/...../	(utensil)	/khrûan/	/T1b/
ใคร่	/...../	(to wish)	/khrây/	/T1b/
งุน	/...../	(to be in doubt)	/chà?nǒn/	/T3*+T3@/
ฉลอง	/...../	(to celebrate)	/chà?lǎwŋ/	/T3*+S/
ชนิด	/...../	(kind, sort)	/chá?nít/	/T3*+S/
ตกลง	/...../	(to agree)	/tòkloŋ/	/T3@+T3@/
ตลอด	/...../	(throughout)	/tà?lǎwt/	/T3*+S/
ตลาด	/...../	(market place)	/tà?làat/	/T3*+S/
ตรงไป	/...../	(straight on)	/tronpay/	/T1-T3+Sa/
ตรวจ	/...../	(to check)	/truat/	/T1/
ถนน	/...../	(street)	/thà?nǒn/	/T3*+T3@/
ถนัด	/...../	(clearly, distinctly: handy, apt)	/thà?nàt/	/T3*+S/
ทรง	/.../	(shape, form)	/soŋ/	/T2-T3/
ทรมาน	/...../	(to subdue by tormenting or oppressing)	/thwǎrá?maan/	/T3*+T3*+S/
ทรงสนะ	/...../	(perception)	/thátsà?ná?/	/S+T3*+S/
ทรหด	/...../	(stubborn)	/thwǎrá?hòt/	/T3*+T3*+T3@/
ท่วม	/...../	(overwhelmed)	/thûam/	/S/
ทวาร	/...../	(entrance door)	/thá?waan/	/T3*+S/
ทหาร	/...../	(soldier)	/thá?hǎan/	/T3*+S/
ธนาคาร	/...../	(bank)	/thá?naakhaan/	/T3*+S+S/
ธรรมดา	/...../	(ordinary)	/thammá?daa/	/S+T3*+S/
ธันวาคม	/...../	(December)	/thanwaakhom/	/S+S+T3@/
นคร	/...../	(city)	/ná?khwǎn/	/T3*+S/
นรก	/...../	(hell)	/ná?rók/	/T3*+T3@/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

บรรจง	/...../	(to manifest accuracy, carefulness -writing,...-)	
		/banjon/	/S+T3@/
บรรจุ	/...../	(to insert)	/banjù?/ /S+S/
บริการ	/...../	(to help)	/bɔɔ ri?kaan/ /T3*+S+S/
ปฏิคม	/...../	(host)	/pà?ti?khom/ /T3*+S+T3@/
ปฏิทิน	/...../	(calendar)	/pà?ti?thin/ /T3*+S+S/
พทานุกรม	/...../	(dictionary)	/pà?thaanú?krom/ /T3*+S+S+T1-T3/
ประกาย	/...../	(spark)	/prà?kaay/ /T1+S/
ประจำวัน	/...../	(daily)	/prà?jamwan/ /T1+S+S/
ประเทศ	/...../	(country)	/prà?thêet/ /T1+Sa/
เปรี้ยว	/...../	(sour)	/prîao/ /T1b/
* (คำ) ผรุสวาท	/...../	(rude language)	/khamphà?rú?sà?wàat/ /S+T3*+S+T3*+S/
ผลิ	/...../	(to bud)	/phlî?/ /T1/
ผวา	/...../	(scared)	/phà?wǎa/ /T3*+S/
พยัญชนะ	/...../	(consonant)	/phá?yanchá?ná?/ /T3*+S+T3*+S/
พยากรณ์	/...../	(prediction)	/phá?yaakɔɔn/ /T3*+S+S/
พยายาม	/...../	(perseverance)	/phá?yaayaam/ /T3*+S+S/
พลาง	/...../	(whilst)	/phlaan/ /T1/
พิจารณา	/...../	(to consider)	/phítjaará?naa/ /S+S+T3*+S/
เพราะ	/...../	(because)	/phrɔ?/ /T1b/
เพลง	/...../	(song, music)	/phleen/ /T1b/
* ฝรั่งเศส	/...../	(French)	/fǎ?rànsèet/ /T3*+S+Sa/
ภมร	/...../	(bee)	/phá?mɔɔn/ /T3*+S/
ภรรยา	/...../	(wife)	/phanrá?yaa/ /S+T3*+S/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

มงกุฏ	/...../	(crown)	/má?kùt/	/T3*+S/
มณฑป	/...../	(royal palace)	/monthian/	/T3@+Sa/
มรกต	/...../	(emerald)	/mɔwrá?kòt/	/T3*+T3*+T3@/
มหาวิทยาลัย	/...../	(University)	/má?hǎawítthá?yaalay/	/T3*+S+S+T3*+S+S/
โมทนาคุณ	/...../	(to express gratitude for services rendered)	/moothá?naakhun/	/Sa+T3*+S+S/
แยกแยะ	/...../	(to elucidate)	/yĒĒkyÉ?/	/Sa+Sa/
ร่มชูชีพ	/...../	(parachute)	/rômchuuchiip/	/T3@+S+S/
รโหฐาน	/...../	(solitary place)	/rá?hǒothǎan/	/T3*+Sa+S/
โรงพยาบาล	/...../	(hospital)	/roonphá?yaabaan/	/Sa+T3*+S+S/
ล่มจม	/...../	(to be ruined)	/lômjom/	/T3@+T3@/
เลหลัง	/...../	(to auction)	/leelǎn/	/Sa+T2/
โลหิต	/...../	(blood)	/loohít/	/Sa+S/
วรรค	/.../	(paragraph)	/wák/	/S/
สกปรก	/...../	(dirty)	/sòkkà?pròk/	/T3@+T3*+T1-T3/
ส่งโทรเลข	/...../	(to send a cable)	/sòngthoorá?lêek/	/T3@+Sa+T3*+Sa/
สงคราม	/...../	(war)	/sǒŋkhraam/	/T3@+T1/
สงเคราะห์	/...../	(to support, help)	/sǒŋkhrá?/	/T3@+T1b/
สโมสร	/...../	(club)	/sà?mooswǎn/	/T3*+Sa+S/
* สยดสยอง	/...../	(frightened)	/sà?yòtsà?yǎwŋ/	/T3*+T3@+T3*+S/
สระผม	/...../	(shampoo)	/sà?phǒm/	/T2+T3@/
* สวิตสวาย	/...../	(anxious)	/sà?wǐŋsà?wǎay/	/T3*+S+T3*+S/
แสวง	/...../	(to seek, search)	/sà?wĒĒŋ/	/T3d/
หมวก	/..../	(hat)	/mùak/	/T2/

EXERCISE

ANSWER

หมอน	/.... /	(cushion)	/mǎʔn/	/T2/
หลวม	/.... /	(loose, too big)	/lǔam/	/T2/
หวาย	/.... /	(rattan)	/wǎay/	/T2/
เหงา	/... /	(lonesome)	/ŋǎo/	/T2c/
เหม็น	/... /	(to stink)	/mĕn/	/T2c/
เหล้า	/... /	(alcohol)	/lǎo/	/T2c/
อธิเรก	/..... /	(superior)	/ʔàʔdìʔrĕek/	/T3*+S+Sa/
อธิกรณ์	/..... /	(trial)	/ʔàʔthíʔkɔʔn/	/T3*+S+S/
อนุญาต	/..... /	(to allow)	/ʔàʔnúʔyâat/	/T3*+S+S/
อยาก	/.... /	(to want to)	/yâak/	/T2/
อรุณ	/..... /	(dawn)	/ʔàʔrun/	/T3*+S/
อลหม่าน	/..... /	(tumult)	/ʔonláʔmàan/	/T3@+T3*+T2/
ออกแอด	/..... /	(sickly, weak)	/ʔwǎtʔĕĕt/	/S+Sa/
* เอร็ดอร่อย	/..... /	(delicious)	/ʔàʔrètʔàʔrĕy/	/T3d+T3*+S/
โอกาส	/..... /	(occasion)	/ʔookàat/	/Sa+S/
ฮึดฮัด	/..... /	(wrath)	/húthát/	/S+S/

* These words are compound words, therefore the tonal rule explained on page 104 is applied.

CHAPTER 14

SILENCE, with and without marker

1) THE SILENCE MARKER: ๕

It can be called either ไม่ทันขาด /máythanthá?khâat/ (the cancellation sign) or การันต์ /kaaran/

It is often used above a consonant to show that the latter is not pronounced.

A) The cancellation sign usually occurs on the word final consonant.

Examples:

กุมภาพันธ์	/kumphaaphan/	(February)
เบอร์	/bəə/	(number: telephone, licence plate, size . . .)
โบสถ์	/bòot/	(church)
พิมพ์	/phim/	(to print)
รถยนต์	/rótyon/	(car)
วันศุกร์	/wansùk/	(Friday)
วันเสาร์	/wansǎo/	(Saturday)
ยักษ์	/yák/	(giant, supernatural creature)
ศูนย์	/sūun/	(zero)
*ศักดิ์สิทธิ์	/sàksìt/	(to be sacred)
สตางค์	/sà?taan/	(one hundredth of a baht; money)
สัปดาห์	/sàppà?daa/	(week -formal-)
สิงห์	/sɨŋ/	(lion)
อนุสาวรีย์	/?à?nú?saawá?rii/	(monument)
อาณานิคม	/?aakhá?nee/	(South East)

.....

* When the cancellation sign occurs above a word medial consonant, it is the

last letter of the first element in a compound word (see paragraph 3).

The cancellation sign often occurs at the end of loanwords borrowed from English as in:

โปสการ์ด	/pòoskàat/	(postcard)
แฟรงค์สวิสส์	/frEEŋsuis/	(Swiss franc)
ไมล์	/may/	(mile)
แสตมป์	/sà?tEEm/	(stamp)
แฮมเบอร์เกอร์	/hEEmbəəkə /	(hamburger)

.....

B) In some cases the consonant placed before the silent letter and / or the vocalic it carries (usually the vowel ิ) can be silent as well, as in:

กษัตริย์	/kà?sàt/	(king)
ภูมิศาสตร์	/phuumi?sàat/	(geography as a subject)
วันจันทร์	/wanjan/	(Monday)
ศาสตร์	/sàat/	(field of knowledge) as in ภูมิศาสตร์ above.
อภิสิทธิ์	/?à?phí?sìt/	(privilege)

.....

2) THE SILENCE MARKER IS OMITTED:

A) Silent final:

In some cases a final consonant is silent even though it does not carry the silence marker. In most words it is ร์ preceded by a consonant corresponding to /-k/, /-p/ or /-t/ as in:

กิจวัตร	/kìtjà?wát/	(routine of work, daily program)
เกษตร	/kà?sèet/	(land)
จักร	/jàk/	(wheel)
รถจักรยาน	/róťjàkyaan/	(bicycle)
ธนบัตร	/thá?ná?bàt/	(banknote)

บุตร (ชาย)	/bùt/ /chaay/	(son)
เพชร	/phét/	(diamond.) In this word ๕ is omitted.
มหาสมุทร	/má?háasà?mùt/	(ocean)
มิตร	/mít/	(friend)
สมัคร	/sà?màk/	(to volunteer)

.....

B) In a few cases a **consonant is silent in the middle of a word**, even though it does not carry the silence marker. It is nearly always ร as in:

เกียรติ	/kiàtti?/	(fame, renown)
ปรารถนา	/pràatthà?naá/	(to desire, to wish) Here ถ is used both as a final and an initial.
สามารถ	/sǎamâat/	(to be able to, to be capable)

.....

C) In a few cases **the final consonant is pronounced but NOT the vowel it carries as** ฎิ, ติ, ติ, ติ, มิ.

โกฏิ	/kòot/	(ten million)
สัญชาติ	/sǎnchâat/	(nationality)
ญาติ	/yâat/	(relatives -in family-)
นานาชาติ	/naanaachâat/	(international)
ประวัติ	/prà?wàt/	(record, biography). See 13 (2) for tone.
เหตุ	/hèet/	(reason, motive, cause)
อุบัติเหตุ	/?ù?bàt/	(to happen suddenly)

BUT อุบัติเหตุ /?ù?bàtti?hèet/ (accident). See paragraph 3 (B), page 119.

.....

D) As seen on page 92, ร is **silent in the three following combinations: ทร, ทร, ธร** pronounced /s-/ as in:

ทราบ	/sâap/	(to know)
ศรัทธา	/sàtthaa/	(faith, belief)

สระว่ายนํ้า /sà?wâaynáam/ (swimming pool)

เสร็จ /sèt/ (to be finished, accomplished)

.....

3) SILENT LETTERS IN COMPOUND WORDS:

A) The silent marker can be found in the middle of a compound word as in:

พิพิธภัณฑ์สถาน /phí?phí?thá?phansà?thǎan/ (museum)

B) Silent vowels can be pronounced when placed in the middle of a compound word as in:

ประวัติศาสตร์ /prà?wàtti?sàat/ (history as a subject)

อุบัติเหตุ /?ù?bàtti?hèet/ (accident)

....

CHAPTER 15

HOW TO SPELL WORDS

1) VOCALICS:

Vowels and other vocalics are called **ສຣະ** /sà?rà?/ plus their phonetic value.

Examples:

າ : ສຣະ າ /sà?rà? aa/
 ື : ສຣະ ື /sà?rà? i/
 ເ-ອ : ສຣະ ເ-ອ /sà?rà? -əə/

.....

Exceptions:

See 3 (4) on page 10.

The three consonants used as vocalics or elements of compound vocalics (ບ , ງ, ອ) are always called by their consonant name.

2) CONSONANTS:

Consonants are usually called by their designatory name though adults tend to consider it rather childish therefore giving only the phonetic value when orally spelling words.

Examples:

ກ ກ ໄກ່ /kəw kà/ or /k əw/
 ງ ງ ງູ /ŋəw ŋuu/ or /ŋ əw/
 ຄ ຄ ຄຸງ /thəw thŋ/ or /th əw/
 ອ ອ ອ້າງ /ʔəw ʔaŋ/ or /ʔ əw/

.....

Exceptions: See 4 (5) on page 31.

3) EXAMPLES:

หมา (ห นำ, ม ม้า, สระ -ะ)	/hǎw nam, mǎw máa, sà?rà? -a?/
ครู (ค กล้วย, ร เรือ, สระ ู)	/khǎw khwaay, rǎw rua, sà?rà? uu/
จำ (จ จาน, สระ -า)	/jǎw jaan, sà?rà? -am/
ชวน (ช ช้าง, ว แหวน, น หนู)	/chǎw cháan, wǎw wĕEn, nǎw nǎu/
เชิญ (ช ช้าง, สระ -ิ, ญ หญิง)	/chǎw cháan, sà?rà? -ǎ, yǎw yǐn/
เดือน (ด เด็ก, สระ -เือ, น หนู)	/dǎw dèk, sà?rà? ua, nǎw nǎu/
เทียน (ท ทหาร, สระ -เีย, น หนู)	/thǎw thá?háan, sà?rà? ia, nǎw nǎu/
ฟัน (ฟ ฟัน, ไม้หันอากาศ, น หนู)	/fǎw fan, máyhǎn?aakàat, nǎw nǎu/
ลิง (ล ลิง, สระ -ิ, ง ู)	/lǎw lin, sà?rà? -i, ŋǎw ŋuu/

.....

4) PARTICULARITIES:

Predisposed vocalics are mentioned before the initial.

Upperscript symbols are mentioned after the initial.

When a consonant carries the silence marker, it is followed by การันต์ /kaaran/.

Example:

แจ่ม(สระ แ-, ง ู, ไม้โท, ม ม้า) /sà?rà? EE, ŋǎw ŋuu, máythoo, mǎw máa/

5) EXERCISE:

เช็ดโต๊ะ (สระ -เี, ช ช้าง, ไม้ไ้, ด เด็ก, สระ -โะ, ต เต่า, ไม้ตรี)

/sà?rà? e?, chǎw cháan, máytàkhúu, dǎw dèk, sàrà? -o?, tǎw tào, máytrii/

เดี๋ยวก (ด เด็ก, สระ -เีย, ไม้จั้, ยมก)

/dǎw dèk, sà?rà? iao, máyjattà?waa, yámók/

ถึงสี่แยก (ถ ถู, สระ -เี, ง ู, ส เสือ, สระ -เี, ไม้เอก, สระ แ-, ย ยักษ์, ก ไก่)

/thǎw thǎn, sà?rà? u, ŋǎw ŋuu, sǎw sǎa, sà?rà? ii, máy?èek, sà?rà? EE, yǎw yák, kǎw kày/

รณรรทุก (ร เรือ, ถ ถง, บ ใบไม้, ร หัน, ท ทหาร, สระ ุ, ก ไก่)

/rɔɔ raa, thɔɔ thŭŋ, bɔɔ baymáɰ, rɔɔ hǎn, thɔɔ tháhǎan, sàʔràʔ u,
kɔɔ káy/

โรงฆ่าสัตว์ (สระ โ-, ร เรือ, ง งู, ฆ ระฆัง, ไม้เอก, สระ ำ, ส เสือ, ไม้หันอากาศ,
ต เต่า, ว แหวน, การันต์)

/sàràʔ oo, rɔɔ raa, ɲɔɔ ɲuu, khɔɔráʔkhaɰ, máɰʔèek, sàʔràʔ aa, sɔɔ sǎa,
máɰhǎnʔaakàat, tɔɔ tào, wɔɔ wĕEn, kaaran/

- and look for ๓ in the consonant alphabetical order,

3) WHEN THE INITIAL CONSONANT CARRIES A TONAL MARKER:

As words are arranged in order of consonants, vocalics and tonal markers the three following words will appear in this order:

๓๑	/khǎy/	(to open, to unlock)
๓๑	/khày/	(egg)
๓๑	/khây/	(to be ill with a fever; fever)

REMARK:

The four words beginning with ๓ ๓ and all the words beginning with ๓ ๓ are found under ๓ and ๓.

GOOD BOOKS FROM



KUKRIT PRAMOJ

SI PHAENDIN – (FOUR REIGNS)

English version by Tulachandra

... an historical novel . .

... It is my sincere hope that those friends of Thailand who do not read Thai will, after reading this book gain a little more understanding toward us.

Kukrit Pramoj

BOTAN

LETTERS FROM THAILAND

A fascinating Novel, and I heartily recommend it to all Westerners who know and love Thailand.

BANGKOK POST

This novel won the SEATO International prize for literature in 1970.

Translated by Susan Fulop Kepner

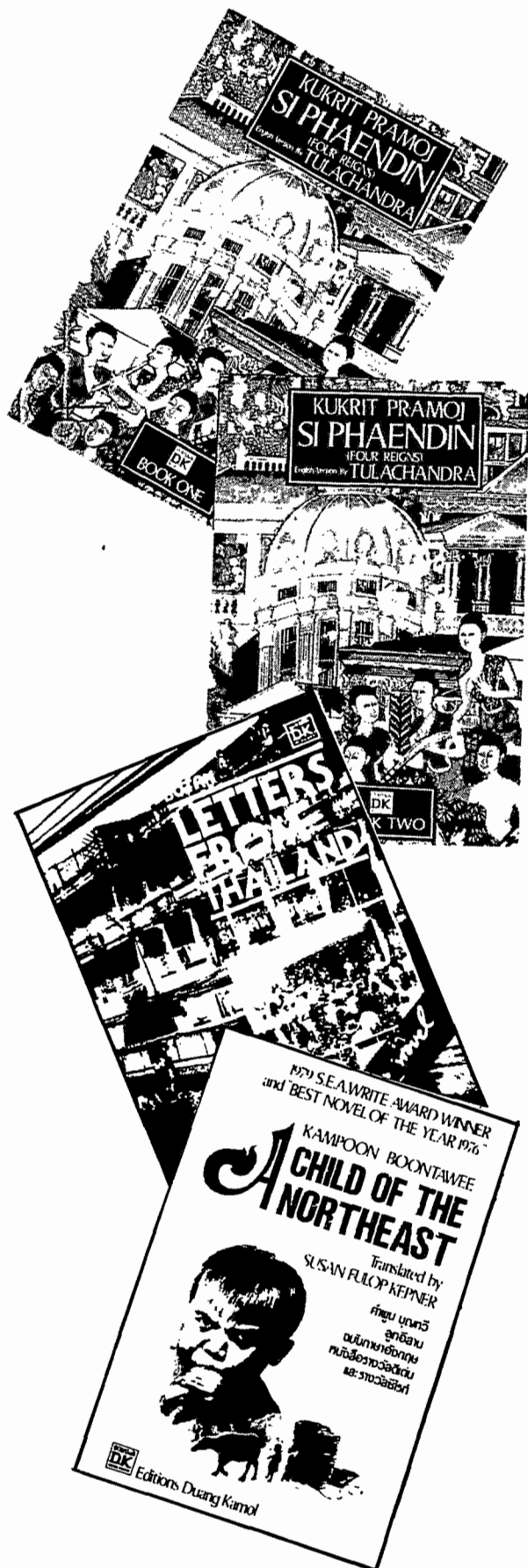
KAMPOON BOONTAWEE

A Child of the Northeast

1970 S.E.A. WRITE AWARD WINNER
and "Best Novel of the year 1976"

... Thailand may be the "land of smiles", but there are many kinds of smiles, signifying many states of mind. This book abounds with examples of behaviors, and motivation

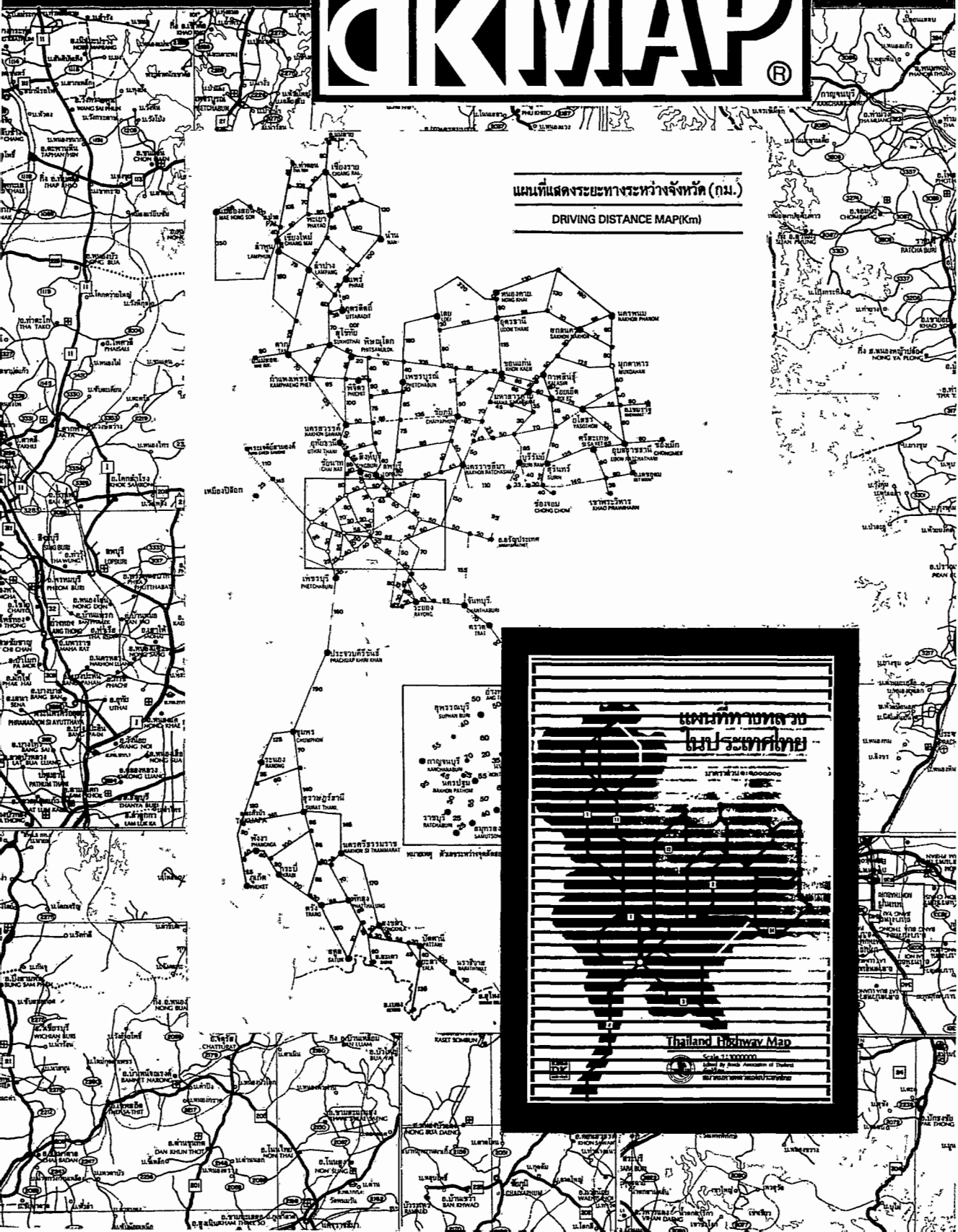
Susan Fulop Kepner



SEE MORE THAILAND

BUY

DKMAP®



This book is intended for all people wishing to learn the Thai system of writing and reading

ก ข คง ข คง จ ฉ

Reading and Writing Thai is not as difficult as it looks once the basic system has been mastered, so persevere and have fun. It is worth a little effort.